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T. F. McGREW,
NEW YORK CITY.

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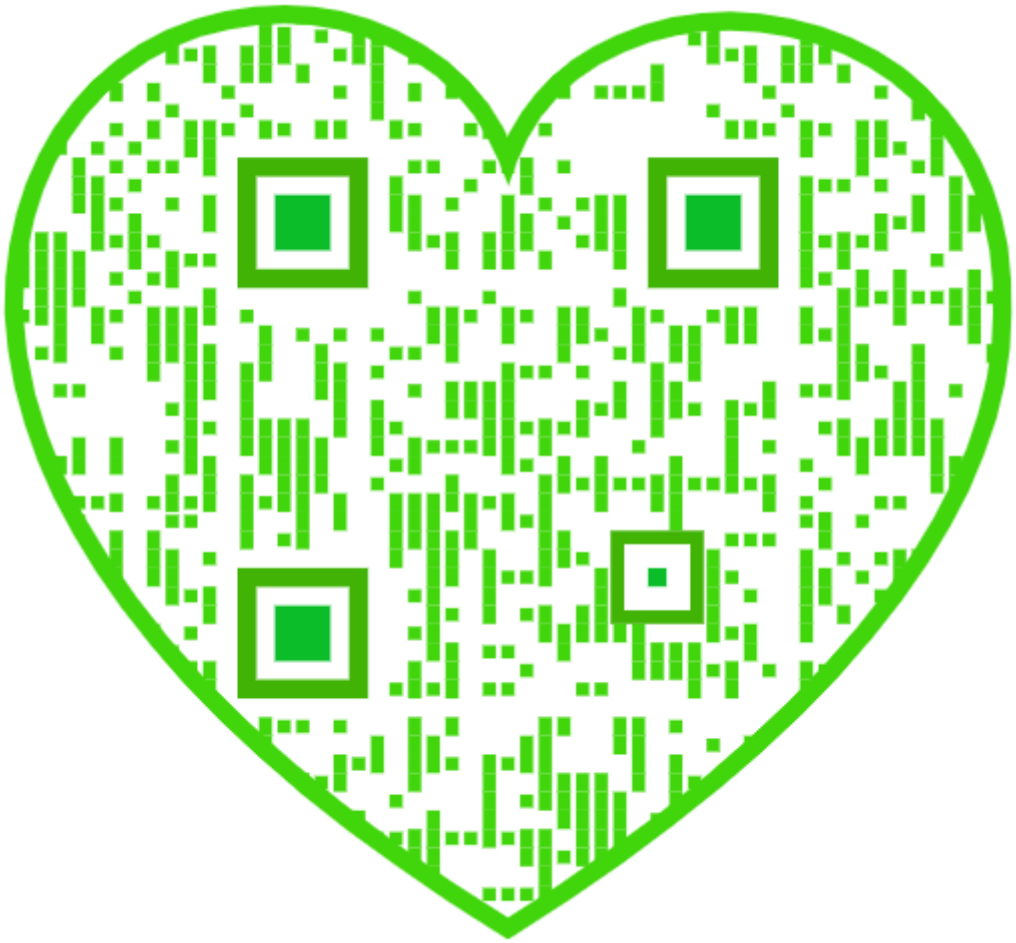

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THE BANTAM FOWL

A Description of All Standard Breeds and Varieties of Bantams, and of New Breeds that are Becoming Popular.

Origin, Shape, Color, Peculiarities, Breeding, Mating, Exhibiting, Judging, Housing and General Management, with an Exhaustive Chapter on Diseases and Remedies.

By T. F. McGrew, New York City.

FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

Price, Fifty Cents.

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To the Bantam Fanciers of the world this book is dedicated. The thanks of the author are due those fanciers whose knowledge has assisted in its production. All that is gathered and published is for the benefit of Bantam Fowls.

THE AUTHOR.

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BANTAMS have gained a position in the fancy far beyond the wildest hopes of their most ardent admirers. Only a few years ago they were spoken of as "Banties," and those who fostered them were considered a little off the regular line of the poultry fraternity; to-day they have the attention of the poultry world, and the most successful breeders in the land pay them tribute. In England, Canada and the United States the most accomplished breeders are using their utmost endeavors to produce some one or more varieties of these miniature fowls of a surprising quality, so as to astonish their fellow fanciers and gain prominence in the Bantam kingdom.

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST EDITION.

In 1816 Moubray devoted to Bantams only thirteen lines of his book on domestic poultry; to-day, if alive, Burnham could write a book on the Bantam craze. Forty-five years ago Messrs. Wingfield and Johnson spoke of seven varieties, all that were known at that time; to-day we have over forty kinds and colors, all fine in form and plumage.

So much has been said and written within the last few years about Bantams that it would be quite impossible to say much of them that has not been previously stated. In compiling this volume, the author has gone through many books, written letters of inquiry to fanciers all over the world, and talked with every one known to him who knew aught of the subject. Facts thus obtained, together with those coming under his own personal observation, are herein recorded for the benefit of the reader.

It is the author's wish to present this subject not in a lengthy, scientific manner, but in a short, concise way that it may be both attractive to the amateur and interesting to the experienced fancier. Should this desire be fulfilled he will be fully compensated for the many hours spent in search and preparation of the data contained herein.

1899. T. F. McGREW.

INTRODUCTION TO SECOND EDITION.

The pleasure derived from the compilation of "THE BANTAM FOWL," was considerable, but far in excess of this is the gratification that comes with the task of revising and enlarging it to meet the increased and more critical demands of Bantam fanciers. Much advancement has been made in the quality of Bantams since the first edition of this book was written. We now have a number of specialty clubs devoted to their interest; all over the world Bantams are bred and recognized as a valuable branch of the poultry industry; and at our leading shows liberal accommodation is provided for the little beauties.

Extend the hand of fellowship to all brother fanciers; urge them to continue in the good work now so well in hand, and the Bantam interest will grow to double its present proportions. Keep on faithfully in the engrossing work of breeding Bantams better and better. It is with such an object that this book has been enlarged in your interest and in the interest of our feathered pets.

1903. T. F. McGREW.

BARRED ROCK BANTAM,
BRED AND OWNED BY
C. H. LATHAM.

GAME BANTAMS.

Their Origin—Importance of Shape and Style Full Descriptions in Detail of the Varieties Discussed Recent English and American Ideals and Methods of Breeding and Judging.

Black Breasted Reds Brown Reds; Birchens, Duckwings (Golden and Silver), Red Piles; Pile Wheatens Duckwing Wheatens and Red Wheatens, Whites, Blacks Aseels, Indian Games, Malays

THE most popular of all Bantam fowls is the Game Bantam. No variety of fowls is more widely known than the Black Red Game Bantam, and we must conclude, judging from the quality we find at some of our exhibitions, none so little understood. How often we see them after the fashion of a young duckling, short of leg, long and plump of body, the female being shaped more like a pigeon than a game fowl, proving the lack of knowledge as to the requirements of a true Game Bantam.

First we will say a few words as to the early ancestors of Game Bantams. More ancient than poultry lore is the game fowl. Of my own experience I can say that a personal friend who visited Pompeii saw a large flagon that had been taken from the ruins, on one side of which was engraved a game cock, on the other a peafowl, showing that fowls of that kind were known in those early days.

Early writers tell us of Game Bantams, but we have seen only one record that places the credit of their origin.

Mr. Entwisle, in his book on Bantams, states as follows: "We think we shall be quite within the mark in saying that not one of those we have placed in the intermediate class, such as Games, Cuckoo or Scotch Greys, Frizzled, Rumpless, Japanese or Buff Pekins, was known in England fifty years ago, certainly not sixty years ago." To Mr. John Crosland, of Wakefield, he gives the credit of having produced the earliest Game Bantams. In the few lines given to Bantams by Moubray (1816) he states: "There has been lately obtained a variety of Bantams extremely small and as smooth legged as a game fowl."

Mr. Hewitt in writing of them in 1852, tells of a pair of Duckwing Game Bantams, which he describes as a beautiful pair. At the same time he mentions Black Breasted Red Game Bantams, a fac-simile of the game fowl, but not exceeding three-quarters of a pound in weight. He goes further and states as his opinion that the Game Bantam, properly so called, may be fairly considered as occupying a distinct place in the family. He does not give the credit of their production to any one, but claims for them the right of belonging to a distinct family.

Mr. Tegetmeier, in his book (1867), in writing of Game Bantams, tells of a Mr. Monsey, of Norwich, who produced them by inbreeding and selecting, also by crossing them on other Bantams. Neither of these gentlemen gives the credit of their origin to any one person. We simply present these records without comment to show the opinion of both early and modern writers as to their origin.

IMPORTANCE OF SHAPE AND STYLE.

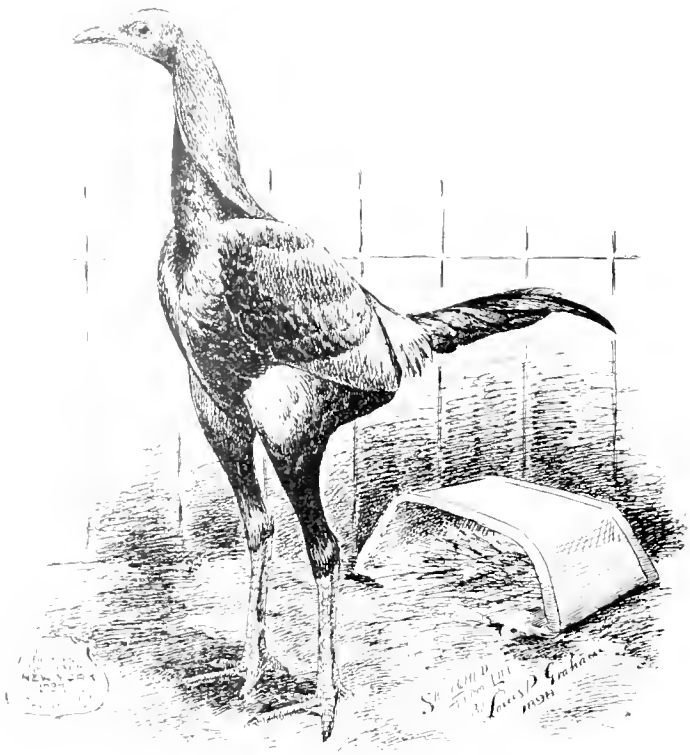
The Game Bantam, of whatever variety, should conform to the standard for shape. Never be content with an off-shaped bird no matter how good the color for without the true Game Bantam form, color and markings go for naught. Never hope for good results in breeding from ill-shaped birds with poor carriage, for your reward will be disappointment. The main features are good style, hard plumage (that is, short, small and close-fitting to the body), small size, and color. These, in the order named, constitute the true Game Bantam.

By style we refer to all terms used by experts and others not so well informed, such as carriage, symmetry, station, etc. The general style includes the shape of the bird and its ability to carry itself in the proper Game manner, and when this requirement is lacking the true Game Bantam feature is gone and the bird is of no value either as a show bird or producer of the same. Much improvement can be made in some birds by training, but true style cannot be trained into a bird that is lacking in proper form.

The bird should be tall, upright, and bold; the head long and narrow; the beak finely formed, long, tapering, and slightly curved; eyes bright and clear, and face bright red, except gypsy face in Brown Reds; and the skin of the face very thin and close fitting. One feature of great importance and beauty is a thin, clean throat. When bred so fine that the female scarcely shows any wattles, the thin, clean throat adds much to the beauty of head and neck in both males and females. To show how long ago the absence of wattles was bred for, we state for your benefit, that the Black Sumatra Game in perfection scarcely shows any wattles. Our standard does not class them as Games, but they are of the same nature.

The neck should be long, thin, and tapering from body to head, the neck hackle short and close fitting. The feathers of the hackle should not come together in front and they should end where the neck and back join. The shoulders should be broad, square and carried forward, and the neck should join the back and body between the shoulders, the prominence of which gives the appearance of the neck being set into the body. This feature is more prominent in the male. The back is short, flat and tapering, giving the body almost the shape of an egg; in fact the body should be egg-shaped and the wings should set very close to the body and be carried well up to the back. The end of the wing should

RED PILE GAME BANTAMS.



BLACK BREASTED RED GAME BANTAM—MALE.

not extend beyond the body, nor should any part of the wing drop nor extend over the back. The shorter the wings the better, and the higher the better, providing they do not lie upon the back.

The tail should be short, small, close folded, and slightly elevated. The tails of both male and female should be formed much alike, the male having a few short narrow sickle feathers. What is called a "whip tail" is most desirable. The breast should be neat, round and plump. We do not admire the flat breast on either Games or Game Bantams, nor do we advocate over-feeding till the crop becomes extended, which spoils the bird's appearance. They should be fed enough to fill out their breasts to their proper form and not so underfed as to cause the shoulders to look narrow and spoil the whole appearance. The sides and wings should be round, not flat. In fact, the whole formation of the body should be round and tapering towards the stern; the whole body coming to a point, similar to the small end of an egg.

The legs and feet are of great importance. The thighs should be long, muscular, and set well apart; in fact, well to the outside of the body. They should taper to the hock joint, which should be strong at the juncture with the shank, the latter being long, clean, and slender, almost round, and covered with small, close-fitting scales perfectly smooth and free from imperfections of any kind. The feet and toes must be sound and perfect in form, the toes perfectly straight, well spread and of good length. The hind toe should be set low and flat on the ground, and should be perfectly straight out behind, and not curved, crooked, nor carried high. When the hind toes twist or turn forward, it is a grave fault, and a bird with this weakness should neither be shown nor used as a breeder, because this defect disqualifies for all uses.

Diminutiveness is a most important feature and should be secured by proper mating, not by underfeeding, for underfed birds can neither mature good bodies nor feathers. Always remember, style and size come largely from the female and color from the male. Never use an overgrown female Bantam to produce small stock, nor a bad colored male to get good color. Have both as near the proper requirements as possible.

The female should in all the above features conform to the male. Her shape and general form should be the same, with the few exceptions of tail, comb and head, but always of a more delicate or effeminate character. In the consideration of size, we hold it is just as bad to have them too small or undersized as to have them oversized unless their vigor and stamina can be retained. When too small their ability to reproduce is more likely to be dwarfed and their constitutional vigor impaired. No fowl of any kind is valuable when these facts combine to destroy its real use. The proper size of a Game Bantam is to be just as small as possible and yet retain all the characteristics of the game fowl. We have seen female Game Bantams that weighed under ten ounces. We think sixteen ounces is, under all conditions, about as small as a mature male bird has been bred and at the same time maintained all the features of a true Game Bantam, having proper vigor and endurance.

We recognize by the American Standard the following varieties: Black Breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Silver Duckwing, Red Pile, Birchen, White and Black. In addition to these there are the Malay, Indian Game and Aseel Bantams. The Bantams recognized as Game Bantams by our standard must conform in shape to the description given above. As to color and markings, each variety must be treated separately. In doing this we shall present the views of the best breeders of both this country and England.

BLACK BREASTED RED GAME BANTAMS

The face, top of head when trimmed, and throat should be a rich healthy red on the cock bird; beak, dark horn color preferred; eyes, red; head, neck, hackle and saddle should all be of one shade whether orange or light red. We prefer what is called orange, bright and pure in color and perfectly clear from any sign of stripe or markings. Of whatever color, it should be pure and true. A light red shading into orange is a bad defect in color for the show pen (but for pullet breeding, most desirable). The back should be a clear, pure red of a slightly darker shade than the neck. No better description can be given for the wing coloring than is found in the Standard of Perfection, which should be studied by all who hope to breed these fowls to perfection. The shoulder should be black up to the meeting of the black coloring which extends down under the wings; wing fronts, black; wing bow, bright red, or crimson, as it is called in England. The wing coverts should form a glossy black bar across the wing; primaries black, the outer web of the lower feathers bay in color; part of the outer web of secondaries bay; balance of feathers black. Breast up to throat, body, stern, thighs and tail, black; sickles and tail coverts, lustrous black; shanks and feet, willow colored, of a greenish rather than a yellowish shade and very smooth and free from all defects.

The female to be a perfect show color according to the fashion of the day, must show a shade of color not strictly as described in our present standard. We say the ground color should be golden brown penciled with grayish brown; the English say, one even shade of light brownish drab finely penciled with black. The English fashion of color is winning favor with our best judges. Our description is not a perfect description of the color as accepted by experts. The comb of the female should be small, neat and perfectly upright, in color, red; wattles and ear-lobes very small, if almost none are perceptible, so much the better, but they must not be trimmed; red in color. The color of the head should conform to body color. If the body color is dark the head may be of a darkish shade; but one even color of

head and neck is preferable and that should he golden with a narrow black stripe through the middle of the feather. The beak should be a dark horn color.

Back. wingbows and coverts should be one even shade of brown, finely penciled with lighter brown; breast, light salmon, shading into lighter color toward the thighs; primaries, black or darkish brown; tail, black or dark brown, the two upper feathers powdered with the same color as back; thighs, light brown, and shanks willow. The above would describe a standard female as per our standard. We should prefer a female of a little different shading (for we think it more like the bird that wins the admiration of both judge and expert), as follows:

The general body color very even and regular in markings, of a color rather on a golden brown shade, finely penciled with dark brown or black; throat, light salmon; breast, a reddish salmon, shading into an ashy color under the legs. The whole color should be very even, pure and free from any dark or blotchy shadings. This we consider a beautiful combination for a show bird. Such a bird is most valuable as a breeder.

To breed show birds of high quality is an art that can only be learned by experience. A few general points can be told, and when followed, success may be the result; but the production of high-class specimens is the result of study and patience. For the production of males, a perfect show male mated to Wheatens, or females showing a reddish cast on the wings, or females from a Wheaten mated to an exhibition male, is the best for good results. The best of all is regularly bred females from Wheaten hens by the best exhibition males. If once you can establish such blood lines of your own, you can hope for males of the highest order, but till then look for only a small per cent of high-class males.

For females, the best results come from males of one even color of red all over. If the hackle and saddle shade into orange, so much the better. Such males, with the truest colored females, produce the best pullets.

RECENT ENGLISH DESCRIPTIONS OF GAME BANTAMS.

The very latest writing of Game Bantams in England, their home country, describe color most minutely by saying that the beak, shanks, and feet shall be of a rich olive or willow—any tendency toward slate suggests that there has been a Duckwing cross to brighten the color of the female; the hackle of the male, a bright golden orange, free from any striping, and the saddle the same (if anything the saddle should run lighter than the hackle); back and wingbows a bright solid crimson. Our Standard calls for a light orange neck hackle in place of the bright golden orange; saddle the same as hackle; back and wingbows red. We think this difference in description calls for a lighter color with us: but the facts are, we actually have the very richest colors in Game Bantams.

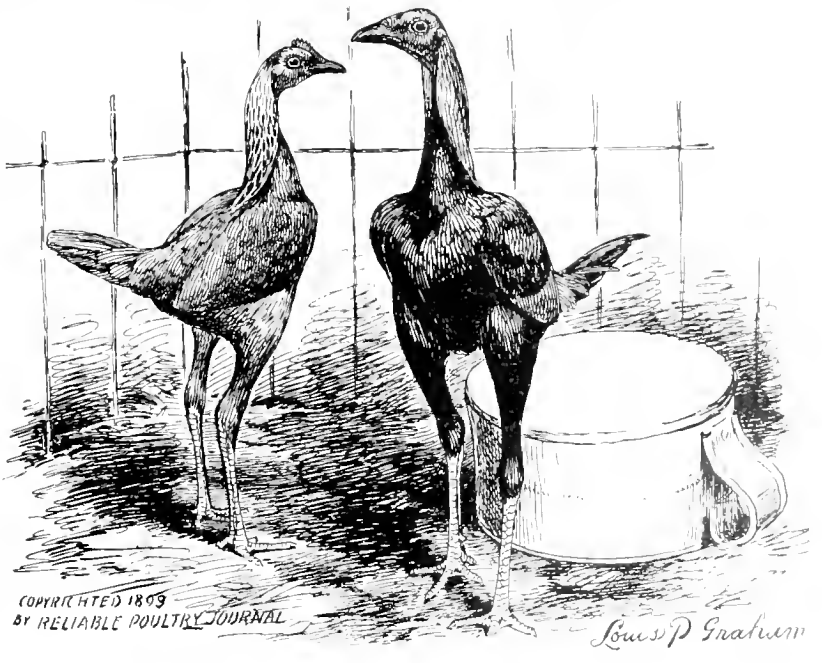
The same writings state that the present day high class Black Red pullet must have a pale golden colored hackle some shades lighter than that of the male, each feather having a narrow strip of black down each side of the shaft; the main body color resembling the medium brown of a partridge and each feather so lightly peppered with a darker color as to produce one even soft color all over the back and wings. A dark shade of brown, so coarsely peppered as to give a dark appearance in place of the soft, clear, even color is most undesirable. The clear even shade all over the back and wings is the desirable color to have, and there must be a total absence of any reddish shading about the wings or in any part of the plumage. The breast should be a rich deep broken salmon that shades lighter towards both the throat and thighs.

This recent English description differs from our Standard, which calls for hackle light golden with a dull black stripe through the middle of the feather, back golden brown, finely penciled with darker brown, breast light salmon that shades off to ashy brown. We should be more explicit in our description of color.

Another English writer, in telling us of shape and color of the Black Red Game Bantam, writes as follows:

"In judging Game Bantams, shape and style should be the most important, although a nice rich color is very pleasing to the eye. The male should be tall and graceful, shoulders prominent and squarely set, back short and flat (a round back being a very serious fault), tapering off towards the stern; the thighs should be long and muscular and set well apart; shanks fine and round and as long as possible. Flat shins should be guarded against. Besides counting against the bird in the show pen, they are a sign of weakness and care should be taken not to breed from flat-shinned stock birds, as this defect is hereditary. The toes should be long and straight, the hind toe carried as nearly as possible in a direct line with the middle toe, the point of which should just touch the ground; although in cases where birds have excessive style, there will be a tendency to carry the back toe too high. This is a minor fault, but where the back toe is carried sideways or inwards this is a serious defect, and amounts to disqualification in the show pen; it is commonly called "duck-footed." In some cases this is caused by improper perches, in others it is hereditary, and should be strictly noticed when making up the breeding pen.

"The head should be long and snaky, eyes large and prominent. In Black Reds, Piles, Duckwings, and Whites, the color of the eye should be bright red; a light or very dark eye in these varieties counts heavily against the bird in the show pen. In Brown Reds and Birchens the darker the eye the better, as near black as possible. The neck should be long and fine, the hackle feathers fitting closely together, wings short and nicely curved, and just meeting at the stern, carried closely, well up and fitting tightly to the body. Three or four years ago there was a tendency for



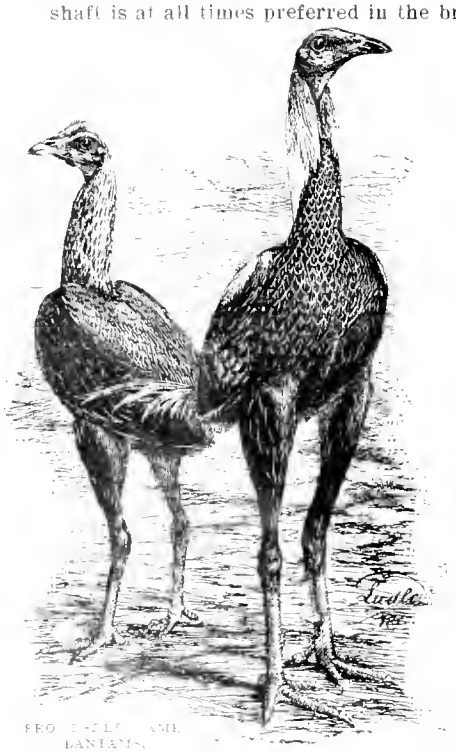
BLACK BREASTED RED GAME BANTAMS.

Game Bantams to be long-winged, but this fault appears to have been overcome. In some cases the bird carries his wing across the back, which is a bad fault, and is known by the name of 'goose-winged.'

"The tail, which is the most important feature in all Game Bantams, should be small and fine, the feathers carried closely together slightly above the line of the body, but not high. The feathers of the tail proper should number fourteen, and should be narrow and fine; the sickles or long tail feathers of the male bird should be as fine as possible, reaching from two to three inches beyond the tail, and should be carried slightly curved, but not forked.

"Size is a most important feature, not only in Game Bantams, but in every variety of Bantams, and requires very careful consideration. At the present day it is the aim and desire of most Bantam breeders and exhibitors to produce the smallest and finest-boned specimens which, although very handsome and valuable as exhibition birds, are certainly not to be relied upon as stock birds, for nine out of every dozen of these fine specimens are quite unable to pass their first egg, and die egg-bound.

"We now come to the next important feature, viz., color, which in the show pen should count fifteen points in black-red cocks, the face, head, lobes and wattles should be a bright healthy red, the neck hackle bright orange, free from striping; back and wing-bow rich crimson, while the saddle hackle should match the neck hackle as near as possible, wing butts black, wing bars a glossy or steel blue, while the bays or wing ends should be a light chestnut; legs, feet, and beak, rich olive or willow, but not blue, which we often find in some strains, where Duckwing blood has been introduced, but in the breeding pen blue legs should be guarded against. The breast and thighs should be black, perfectly free from ticking or lacing, although in adult birds it is rather difficult to get a cock perfectly black in breast. The tail and sickle feathers should be black throughout, including the shaft which runs through the center of the feather, and which in some strains is more or less red, and generally denotes a pullet breeding strain; this is, of course, objectionable in the show pen, although not to any great extent; still a black shaft is at all times preferred in the breeding and show pen.



"We will now go on to describe the exhibition Black-Red pullet to match the cockerel. It should be identical in color of eyes, face, head, comb and lobes, white in lobes being a great drawback, although it is a very difficult matter to breed pullets absolutely free from white in lobe. This blemish is sometimes removed by the professional exhibitor with a pair of scissors; neck hackle golden, marked with black; back and wings light brown finely penciled with darker brown; breast a rich salmon running into a lighter color, which must be very even throughout, the divergence in shade being gradual. The clear even color of the female is most important. The throat should be a pale salmon; breast rich deep salmon, shading lighter towards the thighs and under the body. The tail should be black with the exception of the two outer or top feathers, which should correspond as nearly as possible with the color of the body."

The following notes from Mr. B. C. Thornton, of South Vineland, New Jersey, will be of interest to all, coming as they do from one who has ability in handling Game Bantams. He writes: "In mating Black-Breasted Red Game Bantams for the production of exhibition specimens it is best to use double matings, one for cockerel breeding, the other for pullet breeding.

"For cockerel breeding one should have a bright colored male bird, bright red or light orange hackle to top of head; one shade of color from top of head to end of hackle. Same color for saddle hackle, deeper color on back and wing, good solid glossy black breast, and good color on wing bay.

"The female should be a bright, light partridge color on back. A trifle of soft, ruddy color on wing is no objection, but not bricky red. She should have a light salmon breast, a bright lemon hackle, free, or nearly so, of striping.

"For pullet breeding use a male of same color as for breeding males, provided you have very sound colored females perfectly clear of the slightest ruddy cast on side of wing. This mating will produce the bright colored females so much admired in this country, but somewhat lighter in color than is fancied in England. If possible, it would be best to secure a strain of birds noted for breeding each sex and mate them up accordingly."

BROWN RED GAME BANTAMS.

We notice that the English writers of this variety agree upon the shortcomings of Brown-Reds and say that they suffer from being in too few hands and by having too much feather and a softness of plumage. This they think might soon be changed if a better distribution could be had. Mention is made of a few very fine specimens that have been shown, but none of these have fully equalled the other varieties. Attention is called to the fact that they are much easier bred than are the Piles and Duckwings, and more suitable to smoky districts. While it is admitted that Black-Reds take the lead, one writer tells us as follows:

"Black-Reds have always taken the lead, and I am firmly of the opinion that they always will, although the Brown-Reds appear to be making steady progress, so much so that, in pullets especially, there are to-day some that could hold their own against the best Black-Reds, both in type and quality; still, the judges have always hitherto given preference to Black-Reds. In cockerels the Brown-Reds are still a long way behind the Black-Reds. The color has been obtained almost to perfection, but there is yet too much feather, and with one or two exceptions, the type and stateliness of the miniature game fowl, which we find in Black Reds, Piles and Duckwings is still wanting more or less in Brown-Reds.

"Another reason why so few Brown-Reds are found competing against Black-Reds is that, as yet, the former are practically in the hands of three or four exhibitors, whom we find clearing the boards at our more important fixtures, and until they become more widely distributed this state of things will continue; but the main reason, I believe, is that the judges have decided preferences for the Black-Reds; that is why we very seldom find Brown-Reds competing. In my own mind, I think that Black-Reds should compete alone, and let the Brown-Reds come under the head of A. O. V.

Game Bantams where classes cannot be provided for them. I believe this would in some measure be the means of making the Brown-Reds more popular.

"Brown-Reds, like the Black-Reds, breed true to color, and are much less trouble in preparing and keeping in show form than Piles or Duckwings, and can be kept almost anywhere, where it would be next to impossible to keep the former. The Brown-Red cock should have a very dark mulberry face, approaching black, the darker the better; the eyes should be as dark as possible, a red or light eye counting heavily against the bird in the show pen; the legs and feet should be almost black. The neck and saddle hackle should be a pale lemon, the back and saddle rich lemon, breast black ground color, with pale lemon lacing round each feather, and showing the shaft of the feather, the lacing to start at the throat, and continue down to the top of the thighs. Wing-bar and tail black, the latter as fine and short as possible, although it is very rarely we find the Brown-Red so fine in feather as the Black-Red, especially when the bird possesses that pale lemon top color which is all the rage at the present time.

L. A. HAVEMEYER'S BLACK-RED GAME BANTAM COCK.
Winner at Philadelphia, 1902, and sold for $50.

"A few years ago the lemon top color had not been obtained; in its place we found then dark orange or nearly red, and I believe it is the result of breeding for color alone that Brown-Red fanciers have lost the hardness of feather; for it is a well-known fact that the lighter the color the softer the feather, and vice versa; yet, to be successful in the show pen, a Brown-Red cockerel must possess that beautiful lemon top color which to-day is more than half the battle, irrespective of hardness of feather. Still I contend that in judging Game Bantams shape and type should be the first requirements, then color and hardness of feather. The Brown-Red pullet to match the cockerel should be identically the same in face, eye, and legs. The neck hackle should be a pale lemon with a narrow black stripe; and this color should reach to the crown of the head. The weakness in a narrow black stripe; and color should reach to the crown of the head. The weakness in Brown-Red pullets is to be copery or dark capped, viz., the top of the hackle towards the head runs a dirty coppery color, which is a great objection. Although it is one of the mysteries of game breeding to produce clear lemon-hackled pullets free from lacing on the back and shoulders, still it can be done with careful mating and perseverance. The body and wing should be a glossy black, free from lacing or shaftiness. The ground color of the breast should be black; each feather from the throat to the thighs distinctly laced with pale lemon, the lacing to be uniform and continued well down to the thighs, the breast lacing being one of the most important points, as quite 30 to 40 per cent fail more or less in this respect."

Of course, it will be remembered that condition makes all the difference in color of plumage. A fowl that is poorly—under the weather, will not possess that glossy plumage and the close-lying feathers that a Game in first-class trim should have. Variation of shade is sometimes the result of sickness, and it generally stays with the bird until the next molt.

The style of the bird is always affected by its condition. A sick bird can never be made to assume that upright, forceful appearance that a well trained Game in good health exhibits, and in exhibiting Games this is half the battle, for a good judge will pass by every time a Game Bantam that lacks style and form. Want of condition brings to the front all those latent defects that breeders strive to eradicate. If the bird is inclined to possess a white tip—if the defect has appeared in its ancestors, illness will bring it to the front without fail. Glossy black assumes a brownish hue, lacing and shafting seems to show up more than ever, and the hackle loses its brightness. Lack of condition also affects the color of face, and comb; in fact, these sections are the first to give warning that the internal economy is out of order. It will be interesting here to refer to the required color of these sections.

The American Standard for Brown-Red Game Bantams tells us that the face, comb, wattles and ear-lobes of both male and female should be dark purple or black. The male should be colored as follows: The portions of the body that are red in the Black Red male should be lemon colored in the Brown-Red male. All other portions should be black, with a narrow lacing of lemon on the breast feathers. The shaft of the feathers that are laced should be of a pale lemon color, shanks and feet quite dark in color. Head and neck feathers should have a narrow stripe of black. All lemon colored feathers should have a light colored shaft, and saddle should be striped with black, same as neck feathers.

The female should have a golden or lemon color for head, running a little lighter for neck, which should be penciled with a narrow stripe of black down the middle of each feather; the balance of the plumage should be a lustrous black, the breast feathers laced with lemon. All feathers showing the lemon lacing should be laced with the same shade as the neck feathers. Whatever shade the neck is, the breast lacing should be the same, and each feather on breast of both male and female should be evenly laced all round with a narrow edge of the same shade as neck color. The legs and feet of both male and female should be quite dark in color. If black legs can be had they are by far the best.

MR. A. A. PARKER'S NEW YORK WINNING BLACK-RED GAME BANTAM HEN.

Good colored Brown-Reds bred together should produce both males and females of the proper colors. To keep the color true the highest grade males should be bred to the most perfect females, and to regain any lost color in males.

MR. S. WALKER ANDERSON'S BIRCHEN GAME BANTAMS.

breed from females that show good lacing on back and wing bows. Never discard a female that is well laced on back and wings, for she is of great value to improve the color of males. Cockerels that show too light color on back often make the best cock birds, having a tendency to grow darker each year. A true colored young bird is often too dark as a two-year-old. Some use Golden Duckwing blood to improve the color, but it is far better to use females as above mentioned, and thus save much trouble for years to come.

It is always best to adhere closely as possible to ideal colored specimens in breeding for color.

We know that some advocate separate pens for producing males and females. To do this the following advice given by a recent writer should be well considered:

"Select the most perfect colored male bird; one possessing that beautiful pale lemon top color, and plenty of it. Should like him to have all the breast lacing possible, but at the same time should like the lacing to be clear and distinct, and yet possessing black shoulder butts free from lacing. Another important point to look for is a sound dark eye the blacker the better. Never breed from a light-eyed bird. The pullets to mate with this bird should be as tall as possible, tight in feather, and as pale in neck hackle as possible, care being taken to see that the pale lemon is continued to the top of the head; this is one of the great secrets to obtain bright colored cockerels.

"If you want bright colored cockerels, never use dark capped pullets or hens. See that they are clear lemon right up to the comb. Never mind if they are laced on the back, all the better, as you will get more color in your cockerels; and although the pullets from this pen will be useless as show specimens, they are invaluable as cock breeders; and should some of them come with bright pale hackles, laced on back, and continued on to the wing or saddle, guard these in the same way as you would a Klondyke claim, for there is gold in them as cockerel breeders, although in other respects they are worthless.

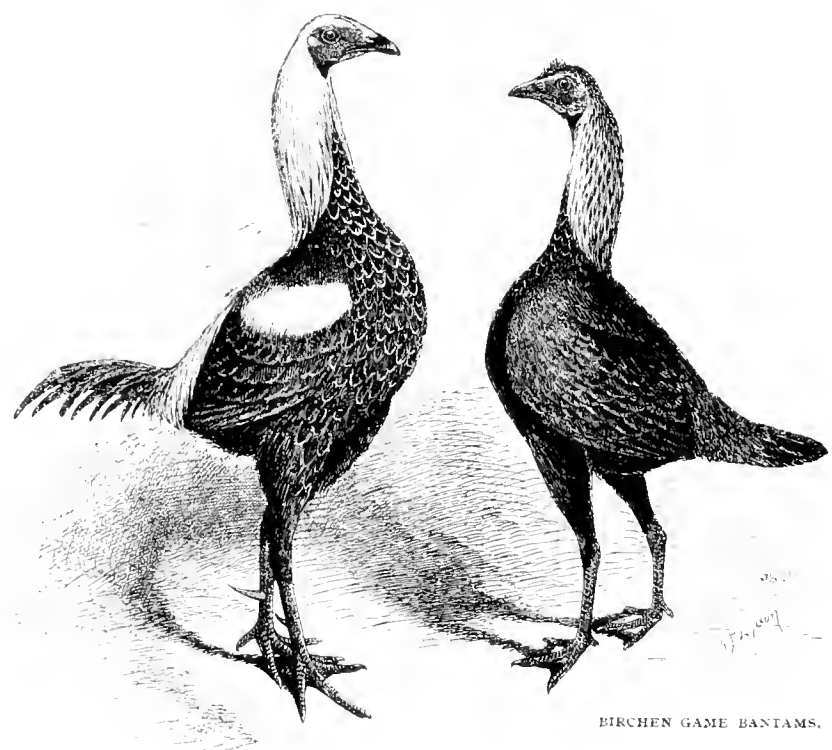
"The next season it would be advisable to put these pullets back to the sire, and put the best cockerel of that season's breeding back to the hens. In breeding for pullets it is not necessary to have the cock bird so pale in color as the cockerel breeder. One of the orange shade, or even darker, would be preferable. Care must be taken to see that he is sound in eye, very clear in lacing on breast, and that the lacing is carried well down to the thighs, and not patchy or irregular. With him mate four or five pullets or hens that are perfectly sound in body color, quite free from lacing on back, yet well laced on breast. This is absolutely necessary in pullet breeding. The hackle should be as clear almost and as bright as the pullets I have already described. In fact, pullets for pullet breeding should approach as near as possible to the exhibition standard. From this pen I should look for the very best colored pullets, but the cockerels would be found deficient in color."

In addition to these matings, some make use of the cross with the Birchen to secure the pale lemon color; Birchens, being partly Duckwing blood, help in this way, but they bring bad features in shanks, which give considerable trouble to root out. The best way to secure good lasting color is to continue year by year to select and breed together the best you can find.

Mr. B. C. Thornton writes of Brown-Red Game Bantams:

"They are fast gaining ground with American fanciers, and some of the best from the other side are being transferred to the yards of American Game Bantam breeders. The fashionable color of to-day in the male bird is the bright lemon hackle and saddle, and as near to that color as possible on back and wing-bow; fine, narrow lacing on breast, coming well down to the thigh; body color and tail hard, glossy black.

"The female, in body and tail, should be short, hard-



BIRCHEN GAME BANTAMS.

feathered, glossy black in color, narrow, fine lacing of lemon on breast; hackle feathers black, deeply laced with lemon.

"In breeding for males I would use a male of the above description with good, hard-feathered female; if slightly laced on back it is no objection. They should be well laced on breast.

"For pullet breeding I would use only sound colored females, with lustrous black body color, no lacing except on breast. A slightly darker male than above described would be better for pullet breeding."

BIRCHEN GAME BANTAMS

Birchen Games are the same in markings as the Brown Reds, only their markings are silvery white. For this reason we advance the opinion that the coloring of the Brown-Reds should be more of a golden color; one after the Golden Duckwing, the other after the Silver, believing the lemon, or straw color, in fact, too faded a color to breed true and sustain itself as it should. We present below a description of this variety from the pen of Mr. S. Walker Anderson (Hon. Sec. pro tem of the United Game Club), of Scrooby, Bawtry, England, one of the most successful fanciers of the day:

"This new and pretty variety of Bantams has only recently come to the front. 1896 was the first year that classes for it were provided at the Crystal Palace, although they have been shown successfully in the variety classes. As yet we have no recognized standard. I have drawn up a standard giving the most points for that which every breeder will acknowledge to be the most difficult to obtain. The Birchen, as most breeders know, is a made breed, obtained by crossing a Duckwing with a Brown-Red. You obtain a Birchen in the first cross, and many times might breed a specimen equal to many years' careful breeding with Birchen and Birchen.

"You must select a Silver Duckwing cock with heavily ticked breast and streaky hackle, good black thighs and fluff; small in tail; very free from shaftiness or lacing. Of course it is understood that the birds must be of good shape, long head, with plenty of reach. The Brown-Red hen must have a good black face and eye, evenly laced breast, and light lemon hackle. And be careful that she has a clear cap. Body should be by no means shafty. From your first season's result select those nearer to the Birchen standard for next year's breeding stock, and in no case, however good, breed from a cock or hen that has a red face and light eye.

"You must first have a good shaped cock with plenty of reach and style, long head and neck; face and eye as dark as possible; the beak, legs and toe nails black or very dark slate color; the cap, neck and saddle hackle silvery white (not creamy), each feather having a narrow black center. The breast, which is one of the most attractive parts of the bird, should be black, each feather having a narrow margin of white completely round it and the shaft of the feather faint white. I myself have a strong objection to a heavily laced bird. The thigh and fluff should be black. This point I consider most difficult to obtain, as most cocks are laced both on the thighs and fluff. The shoulder points should be black; saddle and beak a silvery white with a black center; bows and wings black; tail black, small and fine in sickle and free from shaftiness or lacing. The hen should have a good black face and eye. Cap and neck hackle are the same as male bird, also the breast; the rest of the body a glossy black. Legs, feet and toe nails same as the cock.

"General remarks: To keep Birchens in show form you must not expose them to the sun; if you do they will turn a straw color. I should advise keeping them in covered runs during the show season. Always destroy any brown-red chickens that are Birchen bred; if not you will never obtain a pure strain.

SUGGESTED STANDARD.

COCK.		HEN	
Good head and neck	6	Good head and neck	6
Eye and face	10	Eye and face	10
Shape and style	10	Shape and style	10
Legs and feet	8	Legs and feet	8
Condition	10	Condition	10
Hardness of feather	8	Hardness of feather	8
Tail	10	Tail	10
Breast lacing	10	Breast lacing	10
Clear thighs	8	Clear cap	8
Soundness of color	10	Soundness of color	10
Size	10	Size	10
	100		100

DISQUALIFICATIONS

"Duckfeet, crooked breast, deformed back, wry tail, light eye, red face, and straw colored hackle, saddle and back."

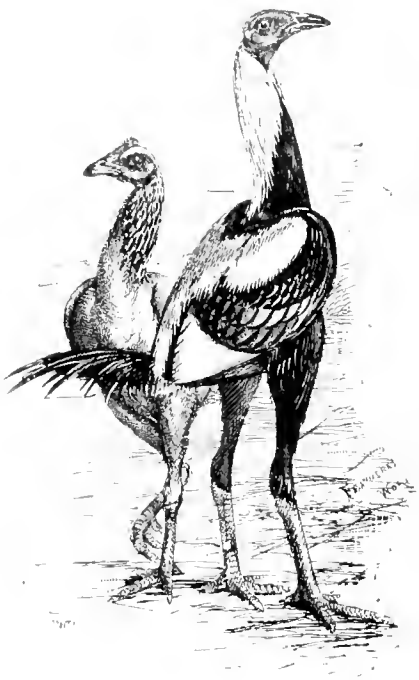
Some most beautiful pullets of this variety have been shown by the manager of Havemeyer's Mountainside Farm. The shape and color of these pullets are quite equal to the best; at the same time they are not generally so good as the other and more popular varieties. The eyes of the Birchen should be black or dark brown. The Duckwing cross gives trouble in this direction, as the Duckwing has a red eye. One of the beauties of this variety is to have the lacing from the throat to the thighs, and hold it there, and at the same time prevent its appearance in other sections. The rich glossy black and the clear silvery white is most beautiful, but hard to obtain. Mention should be made, in mating Birchen Games, that the same general rules should be followed as in Brown-Reds; aiming for the clearest, cleanest colors that can be obtained.

DUCKWING GAME BANTAMS

Duckwings are of most beautiful color when in perfection. The rich coloring of neck, back and wings forms a beautiful contrast to the bright, glossy black body of the males. Our standard for these fowls differs somewhat from the English in the point of describing color. In Golden Duckwings, head and hackle with us are straw color; the English standard calls for creamy white. The back in our standard is golden; with them orange or yellow. They prefer a creamy white hackle with orange back and wing-bow. We call for a straw colored hackle and golden back and wing-bow with saddle same color as hackle, both of which must be free from any penciling or dark stripes. Of whatever color, it must be clear and pure, and free from any discoloration. The general coloring of the bird is the same as to markings as the Black Red. The wing bay of a Duckwing is of great importance. This is a weak point in most of them and should be watched with care in breeding. The shanks of both male and female, to look the best, should be a light willow.

The female in her make-up follows the Black-Red, having the salmon breast. Her back and wings are a slate gray; hackle silvery gray with a narrow stripe; body and stern light ashy gray, tail black, with top feathers powdered with gray. Our standard omits the penciling in plumage of Duckwing females, but they should be penciled on back and wings, very fine and evenly, with black or dark brown. The head coloring of the Duckwing should be very clear and pure, and the hackle quite free from any off shading.

The Silver Duckwing is a counterpart of the Golden, except in color. The male is a silvery white in hackle, back, saddle and wings, and the female is of a much lighter shade of gray, with a light salmon breast. A perfect Duckwing female is the most beautiful of all Game Bantam females when of perfect form and color. No Game Bantam



PAIR OF DUCKWING GAME BANTAMS

is harder to produce in perfection than the Duckwing. They must be crossed with the Black-Reds to keep up the color of the males, and this must be done in an understanding way or bad results will follow. Do not select them as a breed easy to handle, for they are a work of art from the hand of an artist who has well in hand the blood lines of his different matings. Do not be surprised if the progeny of a well selected pen of Duckwings disappoint you. It is quite essential to know their breeding to handle them for best results.

In England the Golden Duckwing only is recognized as a show bird. The Silvers are counted as a side-line or weak colored offshoots from the Goldens.

We shall describe the Golden Duckwing as demanded by the English standard:

"Shape, same as a Black-Red. shoulder color, deep straw, shaded with maroon, which gives a bright brassy color as you look across the back towards the tail; neck and saddle, a browny white with as little marking as possible. The pullets should be a pale steel color with salmon breast."

With us, we have both the Golden and Silver Duckwing, and the class of each is as noted in the name. The one has the golden or straw color markings, while the other has the silvery white markings, and no striping in the neck of either.

It is quite usual to have both Golden and Silver Duckwings from the one mating. It is also unusual to see a real fine, clear, clean marked Silver male, as nearly all of them have the golden shading on the wing-bow, if nowhere else. If it is our intention to encourage both, we should be more stringent as to the color of both male and female, for the mixed colors are neither attractive nor complimentary to those who breed them. It should be the purpose of all the Game Bantam breeders to have these color markings held closer to the line of true color.

Mr. Thornton writes of Golden and Silver Duckwing Bantams as follows:

"They originally were the result of breeding a Black-Breasted Red cock to Silver Duckwing females. They are now bred as a distinct strain and reproduce very true to name and color. A very bright colored Black-Breasted Red male is sometimes used to secure good color in cockerels. Females from this cross are generally Black-Breasted Red in color, and are only valuable when mated to true colored Duckwing males to improve the color.

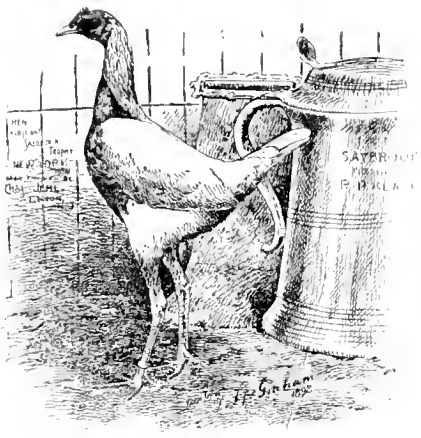
"Silver Duckwing Game Bantams were the old-time birds. They are bred extensively in America, but little in England. They are really a handsome bird when of a pure silver white, much more beautiful than the Golden. No Game Bantam is more beautiful than a fine Silver Duckwing, and a female of this variety is the most beautiful of all Game Bantams."

RED PILE BANTAMS.

The Pile Game Bantam cock, when bred to the true type of form and color, is one of the most beautiful of all Game Bantam males, and many assert he is the most beautiful. He is red and white, as the Black-Red is red and black. If the red is of a bright crimson, and the white a pure, clear white, the combination is most attractive. Yellow legs and beaks are most essential to a perfect make-up. Bad or off-coloring of any kind is quite objectionable, and while dark markings are not a disqualification, they detract from the beauty of the bird.

The female should be pure white, with a golden hackle centered with white, and a salmon throat and breast, the color shading into white on thighs and belly; the purer and clearer these colors, the better. The breast color should not be of a reddish brown, but salmon of a red shade of color. The tendency of the female is to run light in color when produced from Pile matings. This can be improved in many ways, but the better way for general purposes is to breed from females quite dark on breast and with red markings on wings. These birds show the strength of color as derived from the Black-Red cross, and will improve color without so much injury to the leg color. But to produce and maintain a strain of high-class Piles one must certainly feed into their veins some Black-Red blood. This should come from a male with yellow legs and as pure and even a color as possible. Many rules for breeding these birds are given, but the safest and surest way is to use the most perfect males of the deepest red shade, with females having too much color for your cockerels, and with almost white females for your pullets. This will secure a general average of quality and many good birds of both sexes. When the color fails, introduce new blood as above mentioned and use the product of the cross to improve color.

DUCKWING GAME BANTAM COCK.



RED PILE GAME BANTAM HEN

When mating your breeding yards of Piles, select a male bird that is Pile bred and of the very highest exhibition qualities.

The writer of the description for mating Brown-Reds writes of these as follows:

"Select a male suitable for cockerel breeding in shape and reach, as described in the cockerel breeding Black-Red pen. The next and most particular point is to see that he is perfectly sound in his white, free from lacing or smokiness on breast, and above all possessing a sound, deep bay on wing end; for without the latter he is of no use as a cockerel breeder. I have never known a male bird that was weak in color on wing ends to produce a single exhibition specimen; and this is quite as essential in breeding for pullets. Therefore, bear in mind that a Pile cock or cockerel, weak in his bays, is practically of no good whatever either as a stock bird or for exhibition, however good he may be in all other points. Next select three or four tall, stylish pullets, deep in breast color, short in back, and possessing plenty of reach, and showing the shoulder points prominently—preference being given to those which are nicely rosed on the wing, but not creamy on wing ends. From this pen I should expect to get sound colored cockerels, although the pullets would be too dark in color for exhibition; yet as stock birds they are invaluable, and especially so if mated back to the sire. In pullet breeding, the cock must be sound in wing ends, clear white in his wing bars and shoulder points. In top color I prefer a bird of one uniform color of the darker or brickish color, and if laced on breast all the better. The hens or pullets to mate to this cock should be clear as possible on wing and back, free from rosiness or creaminess, and preference being given to those possessing good salmon breasts, although it is quite possible to breed the very best pullets from hens which are pale in breast color, provided the body color is perfectly clear. Cockerels bred from this pen will be found too pale in color as exhibition birds; but those which are extra good in bays and whites should be retained as stock birds for another season."

To strengthen your color lines, it is often necessary to resort to a cross with the Black-Red Game Bantam. When this is done, try and have a Black-Red male with high or yellow colored shanks, and be most particular to have the color rich and pure, with no bad markings, and shape the very best to be secured. Mate this male with three or four very pale colored Pile females that are as clear and clean a white as you can have them, of good quality, and deep orange yellow shanks. Select the very best males from this cross and use them with your Pile females to improve color.

Those who have plenty of time and space to devote to their breeding should select some of the very best females from this cross that have dark or willow colored shanks and mate them to a good sound Pile bred male, and in this way work two lines. We advise the use of the yellow shanked male as a starter, because this indicates that he is the result of the first cross of the Black-Red and the Pile, which gives an advantage of one year's work. But with all this, we are of the opinion that the safest way for the average breeder is to pair together his darkest females with his best males for cockerels, and from these he will most likely have some good exhibition pullets.

Mr. B. C. Thornton writes of Red Pile Game Bantams as follows:

"They are the most beautiful in color of all Game Bantams when true to color. Not more than thirty to forty per cent of sound colored birds are generally obtained from the best matings. The rich color must be kept up with a cross of Black Breasted Red blood, and that is very apt to bring smoky white or yellow where there should be clear white, and it takes a long time to breed it out. My plan would be to breed two yards of these also, as, in fact, you will have to do with all varieties of Game Bantams to get a large per cent of really high class exhibition cockerels and pullets.

"In mating for cockerel breeding I should use a good, sound colored male bird with good, sound colored wings, rich crimson on back and wing coverts or wing-bow, and good color in wing bay or what is known as the diamond; white breast clear of lacing, good white on wing butts and wing bar, showing the markings on wing very distinctly.

"Females for this mating should have a nice salmon breast, fine golden hackle (a trifle rosy on wing will not hurt), the balance of bird a good white, not smoky.

"In breeding for pullets the cock bird need not be so rich in color, but the wing bay or flight coverts should be deep bay color, and all the white should be as clear white as obtainable. The females should have good salmon breasts, nice lemon or straw colored hackles, and be perfectly clear white, free from yellow, smoky or stone color on back, wings and tail."

THE PILE WHEATEN HEN

Has a very bright eye and a golden hackle; breast pale fawn, at times almost cream colored; thighs and upper part of body light buff or lemon color; back and wings the color of wheat; primaries, white; secondaries, outer web wheaten, inner web white; tail white, upper feathers edged with wheaten color; legs and feet are often light willow, but yellow is preferred.

THE DUCKWING WHEATEN HEN

Differs from the above as follows: Hackle and head color is white, or white slightly striped with black; breast light fawn; back and wings pale cinnamon; primaries black; tail and legs same as a Red Wheaton.

RED WHEATEN HENS

Have a red face, red ear-lobes and wattles, horn colored beak, golden hackle, fawn or cream colored breast, light buff thighs and upper part of body; back and wings pale cinnamon or wheat color. From this they get their name. Primaries black; secondaries, outer web wheaten, inner web black; tail black, upper feathers produced with wheaten color; legs and feet willow color.

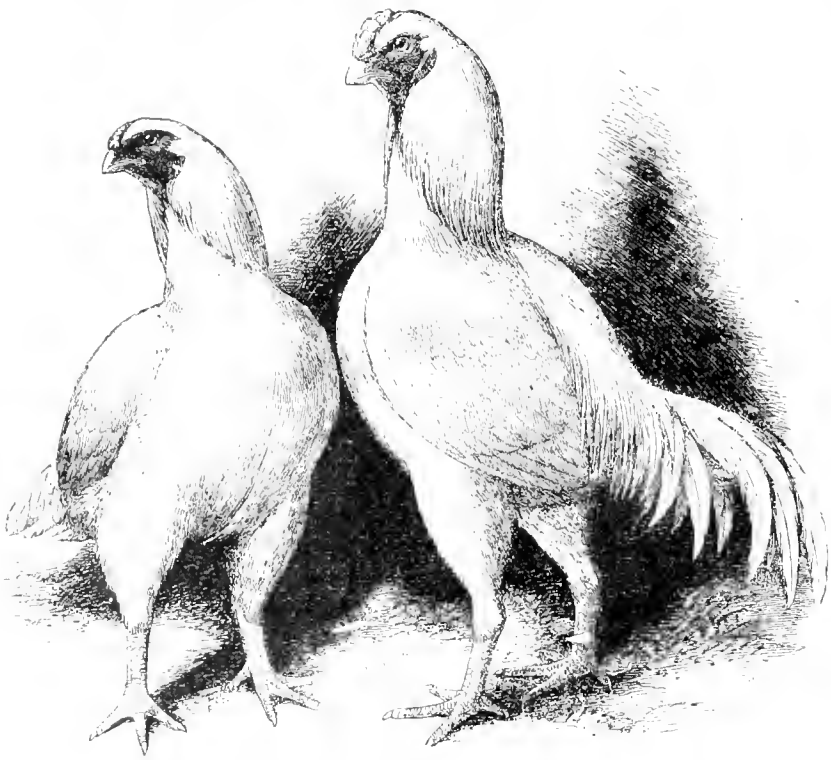
WHITE AND BLACK GAME BANTAMS.

We now have some beautiful quality of White and Black Game Bantams. In our first edition of "The Bantam Fowl," we wrote: "Some very fine White Game Bantams with dark legs, sports from Brown-Reds and Birchens, make their appearance. If these were bred to the White Game Bantams with yellow beaks and legs, a fine line of well stationed birds could be produced. The White Game should be pure white in color, with yellow legs and beak. They originally came from the Brown-Red Bantams, as did the Black Games; both have the same common ancestry. The Blacks should be pure, lustrous black, with black legs and dark purple face, beak dark horn or black, eyes black or dark brown. These two varieties could be made most attractive if attention were paid to them."

Since that time, within five short years, fanciers of Game Bantams have produced and shown both pure White Game Bantams with yellow shanks and pure Black Game Bantams with black shanks, that have quite as much quality in them as is seen in average specimens of other varieties of Game Bantams. The eyes of both these varieties should be red; the plumage of each clear and true, with no foreign color in either. These are the results of breeding sports as above mentioned, the Whites to Piles and the Black to Black Birchen females that have but little or no color, and they must possess the highest qualities as Game Bantams or they have but little value.

ASEEL GAME BANTAMS.

These are of all colors, such as White, Black, Black-Red, Gray, and Spangled. They are fashioned very much



A PAIR OF WHITE ASEEL GAME BANTAMS.

after the Malay type. Their necks are strong and muscular; legs short; plumage hard and short; thighs very strong and rather scantily feathered. The male weighs about two pounds. The female should resemble the male. Ear-lobes and wattles on both should be very small; back quite straight, carriage upright.

INDIAN GAME BANTAMS.

These are just like the Indian Games, Laced and White. Indian Game Bantams originated with Mr. Entwisle, of England, who exhibited them there. We clip the following contribution from his pen to the "Feathered World," England:

"In passing we may here remark that the writer of these pages, after years of labor, was the original producer of all the varieties of Malay Bantams, Indian Game, and Aseel Bantams, and that to the best of his knowledge all these varieties now extant have sprung from the birds he bred down from the large varieties of which they are miniatures.

"The first time we find they were exhibited was at the Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Show, held in Saltaire Park, on Saturday, Sept. 10th, 1887, where my father won 3rd with a cockerel in Class 74, Sebright or any other variety cockerel. There were thirteen entries in the class and the awards were made by Mr. Edwin Wright. The report of this cockerel in "Stockkeeper" for Sept. 16th, 1887, says: 'Third (Entwisle), a nice stylish little Indian Game.'

"These quotations, I think quite endorse my statement. Mr. Gott asks when we sold Indian Game Bantams to him. The first were on Oct. 27th, 1890, when my father sold Mr. J. A. Gott a pen, along with other hens, for £5. I sold also to Mr. J. A. Gott, on Dec. 10th, 1894, an Indian cockerel for 15s. This was far the smallest I have yet seen."

Indian Game Bantams of excellent quality are now bred and shown. As stated above they are the miniature of the large Indian Game, and should favor them. But the present Indian Game Bantam appears to favor the Malay more than the Indian Game, being much too high on leg, and long in back. This is altogether wrong. In every respect the Bantam should be an exact minlature of the Indian Game fowl, and as small as possible.

In judging Indian Game Bantams, shape should be the first essential point, then color and size; but however good in the two latter points, if the bird does not possess the necessary shape and build it should not be countenanced in the exhibition pen. Let type be your first aim, then color. The required size can always be obtained by inbreeding. I will describe what I should consider an ideal bird: Cock—Head rather long and thick; skull broad and inclined to be a little beetle browed. Neck, medium length and slightly arched. Beak, well curved, strong, giving the bird a powerful appearance. Face, red, fairly smooth and fine in texture, and dotted over with black feathers. Comb, peacombed or triple, small and neat, closely set on head, and bright red in color. Eyes, full and prominent, pale red preferred, eyebrows slightly arched. General shape, thick and compact; back short and flat, broad as possible at the shoulders and tapering towards the tail, but not flat sided. Breast, deep and wide, but well rounded, and breast bone straight. Wings, short, clasping the body closely and firmly, carried well forward, high at points, and well tucked in behind. Tail, medium length, slightly drooping; tail feathers proper, hard and close fitting, with a few side hangers or tail coverts narrow and glossy. Thighs, much shorter than Malays, stout, and well rounded. Shanks, medium length, strong and nicely rounded; closely fitting scales, and a deep, rich yellow in color, the richer the better. Feet, strong; toes, straight, long and well spread; back toe carried well on the ground. Plumage, hard and glossy. General appearance, powerful, sprightly, very vigorous, bold, upright in carriage, with the back sloping towards the tail; flesh firm and hard in handling.

MALAY GAME BANTAMS.

The following description of Malay Bantams has been furnished me by Mr. H. Fabian Russell, of London, England, the secretary of the Malay Bantam Club. He also sends the illustration of the group of Malay Bantams.

It is with pleasure I write a few notes on this most interesting and now popular variety of Bantams in England. Its strong personality and, I may say, peculiarity lends itself an easy variety to understand for a beginner and I can strongly recommend Malay Bantams to anyone who is anx-

lous to become prominent in the prize list in a comparatively short time.

Malay Bantams compare very favorably with and are fully equal to if they do not surpass the exhibition Game Bantam in beauty of color, and their rich yellow legs give a most striking appearance. Malay Bantam hens make most excellent mothers and the chickens are strong and as healthy again as Game Bantams and need no special treatment. Given their liberty they require little feeding; being good foragers they always seem to find something to pick up.

The late Mr. W. F. Entwisle, the originator of this variety, no doubt experienced great difficulty in bantamizing the huge Malay fowl, and of course in doing so was obliged to make use of alien blood, viz., the Game Bantam, Aseel, and I believe Indian Game, the former no doubt accounting for the large percentage of red eyes and the gamey character found in many. Of later years they have been crossed back a good deal with the large Malay and have suffered in size somewhat, but have been greatly improved in type and general character.

The first colors produced were the Reds, then Whites, and Red Piles; following these the Pheasant (resembling the Indian Game in marking, and is now not recognized as a standard color). Blacks and Spangles have since been produced and added to the already varied list since 1899. As in the large Malays, the Reds are the favorites and their popularity is yearly increasing. The Spangles, too, are taking well and, although they have been before the public so short a time, they come, I think, a good second. Whites, Piles, and Blacks follow up in the order named. The following fully describes what is desired in a Malay Bantam:

Head and Neck. Beak strong and hooked. Comb of cocks, small, set well forward, shaped like a half walnut, as free from irregularities as possible. Combs of hens the less the better, in fact, very often none showing, which I consider preferable; skull very broad, with deep set eyes and overhanging eyebrows, giving a morose and cruel expression. Wattles and deaf ears small, the bare skin of the throat running some way down neck. Neck long, carried very upright, with slight but characteristic curve. Hackle full at base of skull, otherwise very short and scanty.

Body. Wide and square at shoulders, tapering to tail; shoulders wide and prominent, carried well up, and usually bare of feathers at the points; back fairly long, sloping, and convex in outline; saddle narrow and drooping, the feathers short and scanty; breast deep and full and generally bare of feathers at point of breastbone. The body should present a cut up appearance from behind.

Legs and Feet. Thighs long and muscular, with but little feather, leaving hocks perfectly exposed; shanks long and beautifully scaled, flat at hocks and gradually rounding to setting on of spur, a downward curve in spur to be preferred; toes long and straight, the back to lie close to ground.

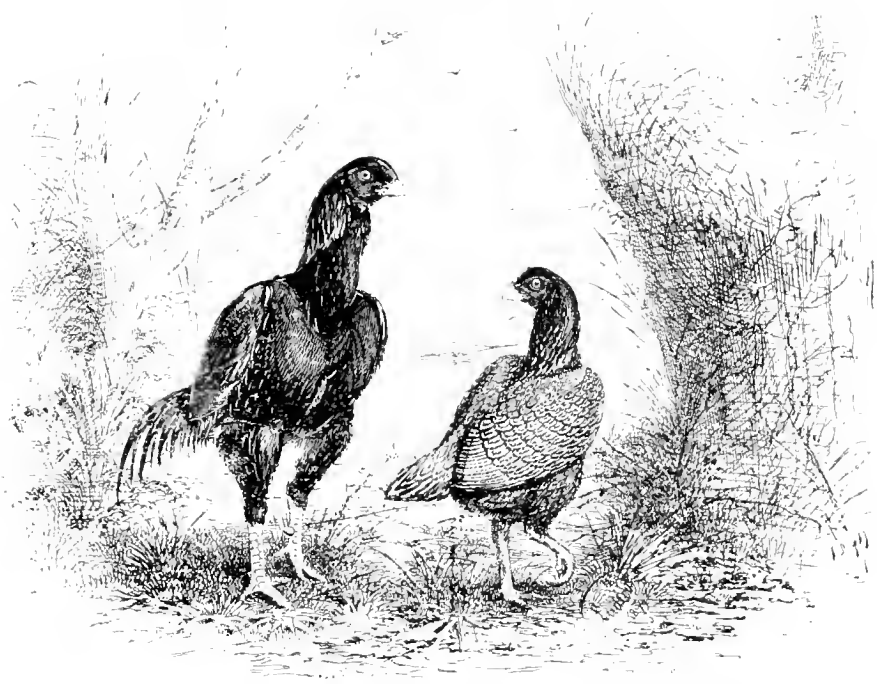
Tail of cocks of moderate length, sickles narrow and but slightly curved, with a fair number of side hangers. The tail of hens should be short and square and carried slightly above the horizontal line and well played as if flexible at joint or insertion. The flesh of all Malay Bantams should be extremely firm and hard, their plumage of extraordinary hardness and lustre, their general appearance fierce, tall, gaunt, high in front, and drooping behind. The feathers should give the appearance of only just enough to cover the body.

Size. Small as is compatible with the preservation of Malay type.

The outline of cocks to present three successive curves, the first composed of head and neck, the second forms the back and the third the tail.

Color. In Red and Spangles the beak to be yellow or horn yellow preferred, in all other varieties yellow; comb, face, wattles, throat and deaf ears brilliant red; eyes, pearl, yellow or daw; shanks rich orange yellow. There are two colors of red cocks, the bright and dark.

Bright Red Cocks. Hackle, saddle, back and wing bow rich bright orange red. Breast and under parts a rich black, wing bar black, secondaries bright bay; flights black on inner web with red edging on outside, tail green black. Hens to match above are generally partridge color, with yellow hackles striped with black.



MR. GEOFFERY JOYCE'S INDIAN GAME BANTAMS.
Cock 2d, Birmingham, 1898, and 1st Liverpool, 1899. Hen 2d, Liverpool, 1898, etc.
By Courtesy of Feathered World.

Dark Red Cocks. Hackle, saddle, back and wing bow dark purplish crimson or maroon. Breast and under parts a rich raven black. Wing bar black. Secondaries dark bay. Hens to match above any shade of cinnamon or wheaten with dark bay or purplish hackle, the body color to be as even as possible.

Pile Malay Bantam cock should be the same as the Reds, but where described black to be pure white. The hens to have salmon colored breasts and golden yellow hackles, all other parts pure white.

Spangle cocks to be same as Reds, but evenly spangled with black and white, showing a good percentage of white in flights and tail.

The hens to be any shade of cinnamon or wheaten, with black and white spangles, white predominating.

Black Malay Bantams should be a glossy green black and quite free from any rustiness. (Yellow legs and beak to be insisted upon.)

The above description is practically a repetition of that adopted by the Malay Bantam Club.

I consider the first thing to look for in judging Malay Bantams is general outline and character, in which I include upright carriage, curvature of neck and back. Horizontal carriage of body is a very serious fault and makes an otherwise good specimen a very bad Malay Bantam.

Head and eyes are the next most important points. Straight heads, meaty combs, large eyes and wattles are all most objectionable and I consider should go greatly against an exhibit in the show pen.

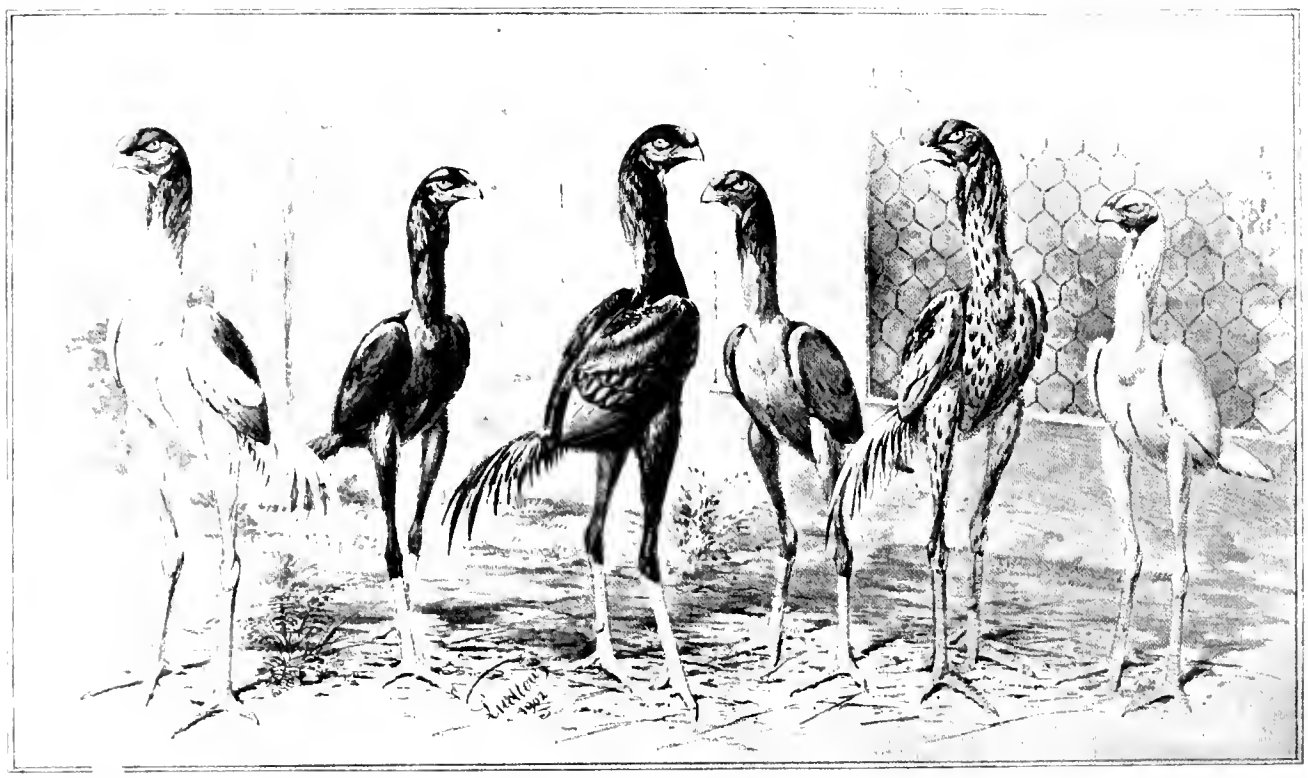
Red eyes (perhaps one of the most difficult blemishes to stamp out) really spoil a Malay Bantam, although hardly to be considered a disqualification; and light yellow, white or pearl eyes should be greatly encouraged.

Of course, reach, length of neck, etc., are all most essential to their general attractive appearance; in fact without these one cannot well imagine a Malay Bantam.

set well forward, showing a good width between eye and top of skull; the back of comb finishing about level with the eye. Short and narrow in feather, sound breast color (although after the first or second season very often brown feathers show just under throat and it is not necessary to discard a bird for this fault, but cockerels when fully out in feather should be as sound as possible); tail and standing on good sound legs and feet.

The hens to be even in color, well up at shoulder and short in body and wings.

There is no hard and fast rule, but of course as in mating all breeds of poultry, etc., specimens having similar faults should not be mated.



PILE MALAY COCK. | BLACK MALAY BANTAM HEN | RED MALAY BANTAM COCKEREL | RED MALAY BANTAM PULLET. | SPANGLE MALAY BANTAM COCK. | WHITE MALAY BANTAM HEN

The Bantams shown in this illustration were bred by members of the Malay Bantam Club as given below

PILE COCK—Bred by and property of Mr. Edgar Beauford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, England. Winner 1st and Special, Club Show (New Cross), 1900.

BLACK HEN—Bred by and property of Mr. G. E. Moore, Greenwich, Eng.

RED COCKEREL—Bred by and property of Messrs. R. & H. Fabian Russell, London, England. Winner 1st and Special, Club Show (Grand International Show), 1901. Only time exhibited

RED PULLET—Bred by and property of Messrs. R. & H. Fabian Russell, London, England. Winner 1st and Special Challenge Cup and Gold Medal, Club Show (Grand International Show), 1901.

SPANGLED COCK—The property of Mr. Wm. Arkwright, Sutton, Scarsdale, England. Winner 1st, Crystal Palace, 1900; 1st, Manchester, 1900.

WHITE HEN—Bred by and property of Mr. Harry Jones, Ipswich, England. Winner 1st, Stowmarket, 1897; 1st, Club Show (Woodbridge), 1897; 1st, Club Show (Wimbledon), 1898; 1st and 2d, Special Club Show (Woodbridge), 1899; 1st, Manchester, 1900. Only times exhibited

BREEDING MALAYS

And now with regard to breeding, there are many different ways so as to keep down size and yet retain the true character; some say the cock should be the more typical and some vice versa.

My advice is—get both as near perfection as possible, and from experience gained I think that the cock bird should excel in head, with strong beak, neat comb, broad in front,

In breeding White Malay Bantams, cocks with straw color on back or wings should be discarded, also green or willow tinge on legs, a fault which is very prevalent in this color.

Pile Malay Bantams of good color seem difficult to obtain and although I am strongly against any cross with the Game Bantam for reducing size, etc., I feel inclined to digress in this instance. Many are of opinion they may be produced by crossing the White and Red Malay Bantam, but I have never seen very good results; one may breed some fair colored pullets, but seldom, if ever, cockerels. The pullets often have the desired salmon-colored breast, but the neck hackle is nearly always faulty, in fact generally quite white. The cockerels of this cross are as a rule nothing more than

very bad colored White Malay Bantams with straw-colored back and a few red feathers on shoulders and wings.

By mating a White Malay Bantam cock with a partridge-colored hen with golden hackle I have had better results than any other pure Malay cross, but as one might expect, these have been pullets.

There are a few good Pile Malay Bantams in existence and no doubt by careful mating may be improved, but unfortunately they are not numerous. I have not seen any from which one could confidently expect to produce a sound colored typical specimen.

If a new strain of Pile Malay Bantams were desired I should advise the following way of producing same:

Obtain a Red Pile Game Bantam cock with a strong head and light eye as possible; see that his color is sound, not only his top color, but his wing ends a rich chestnut, right to the end of feather and his breast a clear white, quite free from lacing, ticking or smokiness. These points are most important, as to obtain sound rich color is our only reason for introducing the Game Bantam blood.

To this Pile Game Bantam cock mate White or White-Red bred Malay Bantam hens, say two of each, all excelling in head properties and curves and having good reach and upright carriage. If the hens of the White-Red cross show foxiness on wings this will be found useful for the cockerel breeding. I recommend the cock to be the Pile, as it is always considered the male bird gives the color and female shape and from experience I have found this to be so.

The produce of this cross would show a good percentage of faulty combs and gamey type, but the color should be fairly good and possibly one or two really passable Pile Malay Bantams would be the result. It is surprising sometimes how a first cross with entirely different varieties and of different colors as the above will alter the color of produce of the one and yet still hardly affect the shape; for instance, it is not improbable that the above mating would throw almost apparently pure Game Bantams and on the other hand typical Malay Bantams.

Select the richest and soundest colored cockerel having a good comb, broad in front, and mate him to the hens used in the first crossing; it would also be advisable to run with him a partridge colored Malay Bantam hen with a golden hackle. From this mating the type should be greatly improved and color well maintained.

The pullet of the Game-Malay Bantam cross having good hackle color and with most Malay type might be put with a Red Malay Bantam cock with advantage. He should be of a good, deep, rich color, sound bars and quite free from any rustiness on breast and thighs, preferably of a partridge-color breeding strain.

Do not on any account use the Game Bantam again, because it will take some time to effectually stamp out the objectionable faults introduced by the one cross and another would be fatal to the type.

The produce of the Game-Malay Bantam cross must not be inter-bred, as no good could possibly be gained by so doing.

I must warn any one who introduces the Pile Game Bantam for Pile Malay Bantam breeding to do so very carefully and to keep a strict note of how every bird is bred, always remembering to select the most typical to breed from, particularly the male bird; any experimenting should be done with the hen.

Pile Malay Bantams have been produced and exhibited by Messrs. Edgar Branford, H. Jones and G. E. Moore.

The chief faults found in the present day Pile Malay Bantams are the lacing and ticking on the breast and throat of the males and paleness of hackle color of the females.

Spangle Malay Bantams were obtained by the Red-White cross (not by the introduction of the Spangle Azeel as thought by some) and are not difficult to breed, and by careful selection most striking and beautiful combination of color may be the result.

Black Malay Bantams were either sports from Whites or the Red-White cross. They must be a rich glossy black and not rusty in color.

The legs and beak should be quite free from sootiness, which very often asserts itself and is a very difficult point to stamp out, many coming quite black.

A cross back with the Whites will improve both color of feather and legs, but as might be expected, a percentage of this union would be mottled.

Mr. G. E. Moore at one time had in his possession some very good Black Malay Bantams, rivalling all other colors in Malay character, in fact I think one hen in particular excelled any I have seen for width of skull, strength of beak and brow.

The accompanying drawing is by Mr. J. W. Ludlow (the well-known poultry, etc., artist) of winning Malay Bantams from sketches supplied by myself, and I think give an excellent idea what typical Malay Bantams are.

In conclusion I trust the time is not far distant when we shall see the American bred Malay Bantams alongside of our own on the show pen and, as in other varieties, well up on the prize list.

H. FABIAN RUSSELL.

OLD ENGLISH GAME BANTAMS.

BY P. PROUD, ENGLAND.

There is no other breed of Bantams that awakened such interest, or caused such a boom in the fancy during the year 1898 as Old English. For years this charming variety has been hanging fire, as it were, but like all other new breeds, once they are launched in the exhibition world, and classes provided for them, their popularity is quickly assured by such a novelty lover as the English exhibitor. And why, I ask, should not the Old English Game Bantam find equally as much favor as the large breed of Old English Game, from which they have descended. To-day in the North-country shows and at all the big events throughout England, there are no classes which fill better or pay better than Old English Game, and I have no hesitation in saying that with proper attention in breeding, the Old English Game Bantam would soon become a very popular breed.

I have been greatly amused at the correspondence which has lately appeared in the columns of The Feathered World, regarding the origin of Old English Game Bantams, and whilst reading this correspondence, and enjoying my evening pipe, with my feet on the fender, my thoughts have gone back nearly thirty years to my school days, when I first entered the ranks of Bantam fanciers. My first purchase I well remember, even yet, was a pair of lovely little yellow-legged spangled or speckled Bantams, for which I paid the modest sum of 1s 4d each, and these were spangled beautifully broken in color, cobby in shape, and nice flow of feather, perhaps not quite so small as the present day type, but otherwise quite their equal. At that time I was only eight years of age, and I also remember, as if it were only yesterday, the schoolmaster examining us in history one sultry afternoon in July, and as we each toed the mark around the black board, and it came to my turn, the master in solemn tones asked me who was the originator of the Old English Bantams; and in those days I had a lot of George Washington's disposition about me, and could not tell a lie, so I replied, "Please, sir, it wasn't me." At this he smiled, and said, "I am quite sure of that, Pringle. But you keep Bantams, don't you?" I answered, "Yes, but I

bought them from Richard Noah, at the Mill, and I believe he got them from his grandfather, who kept them, so he says, ever since he was a lad." The master did not ask me any further questions that day. This was my first experience, and ultimately I gave up the Spangles in favor of the modern Black-Reds, which I have kept on and off ever since.

As an example of the rapid strides the Old English Bantam has made, I need only refer to Whitehaven Show of November 11th, 1898, where a Black-Red cockerel which carried off first prize was claimed at catalogue price £10, although had this bird been seen running about in any of the back yards twelve months previously it might have been bought for eighteen pence. Then at Birmingham Show, three weeks later, the third prize bird was bid up to £11 11s, and which a couple of years ago would not have fetched as many shillings.

I will now try and describe what I consider should constitute an ideal Old English Game Bantam.

Head medium length. Beak strong, slightly curved. Eye large, fiery red and bold. Comb small and single and of fine texture. Ear-lobes free from white. Face and wattles bright healthy red. Neck fairly long, and well set on between square and prominent shoulders. Neck hackle to come down well onto the shoulders. Chest broad and full. Breastbone straight (this is very important), the breast being firm and well developed. Back short, broad at shoulders, and tapering towards the stern. Wings short, first meeting under tail and fitting closely to the body, and should be full, otherwise the bird has the appearance of what is termed flat-sided. Tail should be directly in opposition to the Modern Game Bantam, viz., main or primary feathers fairly long and strong; sickles broad, good length and nicely bowed, with four or five side-hangers of medium length covering the width of the tail each side. Legs short, thick, muscular in thighs, well set apart; shanks medium length, round in front—not flat (which shows weakness), and in Black-Reds, Spangles and Blue Duns the color of legs should be white or yellow, white for preference. Toes, fairly long and muscular, straight; the back toe to be carried in a direct line with the middle toe, and should grasp the ground firmly, the point of the toe being flat on the ground. Carriage, quick and sprightly, with a bold, defiant look. The bird in the hand should handle hard and firm; the harder the better.

Points of Color in Black-Reds.—Cocks: Face and eyes, red; beak, white or yellow to match the legs; neck and saddle hackles, bright orange red; back and wing-bow, deep red; breast and thighs, black; wing-bar, blue-black; wing-end or bay, rich chestnut; tail, glossy black. Although white in tail is to some degree a fault, it should only count against the bird very slightly in the show pen.

The hen to match this cock should be either partridge or wheaten. The former should be the same as the cock in face, eyes, beak and legs; neck, lemon or light orange, with a narrow black stripe on each side of the shaft; breast, rich salmon, shading lighter towards the thighs; back and wings, partridge color, or a brownish drab of one even color all over, and free from rustiness and shaftiness; tail, black, except the two top feathers, which should correspond with the body color. The wheaten hen should match the cock in face, eyes, and legs; neck, bright golden; breast and thighs, pale fawn; body and wings darker shade or wheat color; tail, black, with the top or outer feather tinged with wheaten. Size: Cocks, 18 to 25 ounces; hens, 15 to 20 ounces.

Spangles.—Both the cock and hen should resemble each other in every respect as to color, viz., face, head and eye, bright red; plumage throughout, black red or blue, evenly spangled with white; tail, black and white; legs, white or yellow.

Black-Red cocks may either be bred from partridge or wheaten hens. Strange to say, the soundest and brightest colored cocks are to be bred from a partridge hen; if the cock bird is also partridge bred, this is important. Partridge bred cocks, as a rule, are much brighter in color than wheaten bred cocks, and are frequently found to be a bit striped in hackle, and it is these bright colored birds that find most favor in the show pen.

To breed sound colored partridge hens I would proceed on the same line of color as stated in modern Black-Red Bantam pullet breeding, care being taken that your male bird is not wheaten bred. If he is, your labor will be lost. To breed partridge pullets you must have a partridge bred cock bird, and don't you forget it. A wheaten bred cock, with partridge hens, spoils the color in both wheaten and partridge chickens. To breed wheaten hens I should select a good colored wheaten hen and put her to a wheaten bred cock. The cocks from wheaten hens are generally a shade darker than the partridge bred birds, and are more inclined to show red in breast more or less.

In breeding Spangles I think if even-colored birds are selected on both sides, the produce both in cockerels and pullets will be found satisfactory, as unlike many colors, one pen will be found to produce good specimens of both sexes. Should, however, the chicks come too light in color the following season, I should use a partridge hen, or even a wheaten, although for preference I should use the partridge, as partridge bred Spangles always appear to me to be much harder in feather and more taking in color than wheaten Spangles.

To breed evenly-spangled pullets it is best to use a light colored cock, but as an all around breeder, I should prefer a medium colored, evenly spangled bird. Blue Duns or Blue-Reds are only to be found here and there, although they are quite as pretty as the Black-Reds. In the first place, I think the name Blue Dun hardly correct. The blue-breasted red cocks I would call Blue-Red. These may be bred from blues on both sides, but I think one could hardly know what color to expect in the chicks, as they "sport" all ways, and require very careful breeding to get the color fixed. I have seen a good blue cock bred from a sound blue-breasted cock and wheaten hen, and I think a pullet could also be bred the same way, or from blues on both sides. A Blue-Red cock can be bred from a blue hen and a sound colored Black-Red cock. In fact, they will breed any way almost, and as color is only a secondary consideration in Old English Bantams, it is not of very great importance how they are bred, provided the proper shape, type, and size are all there.

A little advice, and then I've had my say on this variety. Don't try to breed Old English Game Bantams by crossing with the Modern Game Bantam, for it can't be done; and don't try and palm off a rank waster of a Modern Game Bantam to a judge as an Old English Game Bantam, for that won't wash in 1899, although it did in 1898. If they have got to be Old English, let them be Old English, for there are hundreds of them in the country to-day, and have been for years.

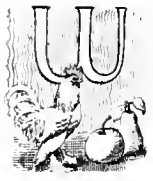
In judging Old English Bantams, care should be taken to have the proper cobby type, broad in chest, low on leg, firm in breast, and straight in breastbone, strong in head and beak, with a red fearless eye, feet well on the ground, and sound in back toe, with bold but graceful carriage, quick in movements, and ever on the alert. The tail should be full, and the sickles and side hangers of the cock should be fairly long and well curved, not whip-tailed, as is often seen. Dark legs, light eyes, crooked breastbones, wry-tailed, and duck-footed, should one and all amount to disqualification.

P. PROUD.

ASIATIC BANTAMS.

The Experiences of Successful Breeders—How to Mate and Judge Asiatic Bantams—Their Food and Care—Comparison of Brahmas and Cochins, with Full Description of English and American Requirements.

Brahmas (Light, Dark and Buff). Cochins (Buff, Partridge, Cuckoo, Black and White); Japanese (Black Tailed White, Black, White, and Gray); Frizzles (White, Black and Buff); Rumpless, and Burmese



E NOW have Bantams to conform to each of the Asiatic varieties—both varieties of Brahmas, and four varieties of Cochin Bantams; also Mr. Hughes' Langshan Bantams. These are all of type and quality to conform to our American standard. This the result of effort put forth by our earnest fanciers, who never rest content till all peculiarities are removed or changed that do not meet the demands of our standard. Of all things in these varieties, the type of the breed which they miniature should be followed. Have true Brahma shape and color in the Brahma Bantams, and see to it that your Cochin Bantams are true to Cochin form and color.

BRAHMA BANTAMS.

An English writer, in describing Brahma Bantams, tells us that in shape they should resemble the Cochin Bantams as near as possible, with the exception that the Brahma Bantam should be a trifle higher on the legs, and the hens longer in back and tail. This is true of all that have come from England here; but in our opinion, as based on the American standard, this is not proper, and our breeders are doing all they can to have the Brahma Bantams of American Brahma form; and while the task is a hard one—as we had only the English type of birds to begin with—the changes are coming each year more and more into this form. During the winter of 1901-1902, beginning with the Buffalo Pan-American display and continuing on through the winter, the quality shown was far nearer our Brahma type than ever before; and those that we have seen this fall (1902) indicate still closer resemblance.

Of all things we should get rid of the extended hock in Brahma Bantams. We must not lose sight of the fact that our Standard calls vulture hocks a disqualification; and while the thigh may be well covered with soft feathers, stiff extended hocks are wrong and against the Standard law. The most beautiful and best finished Brahma Bantam has the nicely rounded hock. While we should be as lenient with them as possible until these new varieties are better finished, we should discourage all tendency toward vulture hocks.

Following this in importance is size. We should begin to breed within the weights demanded by our standard, and not allow those of over weight to win simply because they are the best in shape or color. Three pound Brahma colored fowls are not Brahma Bantams. They are under-sized Brahmas, and should not be classed with Bantams. Nor should the Bantam clubs allow such to compete.

In describing Brahma Bantams as bred in England, Mr. Proud writes as follows:

"The light cock should have a triple or pea comb; face and wattles red; hackles, silvery white, striped with black towards the bottom; the back, wings, shoulders, breast and thighs, white; tail, black; the top outer feathers, or what are termed hangers, slightly edged with white; legs, yellow, heavily feathered with white feathers to end of middle toe, the more free from black the better; beak, yellow, to match the legs; eyes, red or yellow.

"The hen is white in body, with neck hackle also white, but plainly striped with black; the wings when opened out should show black in primaries, and also in under-secondaries; tail, also black, to match the cock; legs, feet and beak, yellow, and well furnished with white feathers to end of toes; eyes, red or yellow."

While this described them as they come to us from England, such hackle marking as he describes in the male would not meet our demand. We must have the entire hackle striped, as in our large Brahmas, or they fail in color. The lesser covert, too must be edged with white.

The same writer describes Dark Brahma Bantams as follows:

"The Dark Brahma cock should have a triple or pea comb; face, red, also wattles and lobes, latter free from white; beak and legs, yellow or horn color; neck hackle, silvery white, striped with black, the stripe to be broader towards the bottom of hackle; breast, thighs, leg and foot feathering, tail, wing, butts, and shoulders, sound black; wing bow, back, and shoulders, silvery white; the saddle hackle same color, but with distinct black striping; wing bar and tail hangers, rich green-black; the leg and foot feathering to be a sound black as long as possible—the less white in foot feather the better, although it is a difficult matter to get the foot feather absolutely sound in either color, as black will invariably show in the foot feather of the Lights, but it should always be guarded against when mating up the breeding pen. This only refers to the cocks, as the hens are generally fairly sound in this respect. The dark hen should be identically the same as the cock in the face, eyes and leg; hackle, silvery-white ground color distinctly striped with black; tail, also black; body, breast and wing-color to be a nice steel-gray color, penciled with black, the penciling to be as distinct and as even as possible, and continued right up to the throat and out toward the fluff behind the legs; the penciling and ground color being the chief and most important parts in Dark Brahma, together with length of feather, which should be as long as possible and carried right to the end of middle toe."

LIGHT BRAHMA BANTAMS IN AMERICA.

The Light Brahma Bantams in America should be the counterpart of the standard Brahma fowl. The facts as to its production differ somewhat as they come to us from different sources. Some claim a cross with Brahma fowls and Japanese Bantams; others a mixture of Aseel and Cochin Bantams; while still others claim a direct Brahma cross with Cochin Bantams. If we desired to produce them we should prefer to depend on the Brahma-Cochin Bantam cross. The Brahma Bantams, as we now have them, need to be improved in size and markings. Many of them have almost perfect Brahma shape. The Lights lack in the penciling of hackle, and the Blacks in wings and tail. The Darks are good in color. The females lack in penciling. The Light Brahma Bantams of the present have fairly good Brahma combs, shape and body color. The under-color of most of them is white; the neck hackle of males striped more or less toward the lower edge, not much toward the upper part of necks; head pure white, wings only partially black, tails very good in color, and coverts of many of them are edged with white. The females show more and better color in both neck and wings. Some few of the females show a tendency toward dark or slate in under-color. All have good color of beak and legs, and plenty of leg and toe feathering. With these qualities to start with it is quite unnecessary to consider how to produce them. The question is, how shall we improve them?

LIGHT BRAHMA BANTAM,
BRED AND OWNED BY D. LINCOLN ORR.

This is being done in several ways. Some have crossed those they have with the large Brahmas with good results. The winning pullet at the Boston show of 1902 was a living picture of what may be accomplished in this way. She was almost equal to any Brahma in shape and color. Some very handsome males have been produced in the same way. This cross will greatly improve hackle, wing and tail color, and give us the true Brahma throughout. Others have gained better quality by selecting the best they had in line with our standard demand and breeding from them, then selecting the best from the result of these matings. When you follow this plan, in selecting your breeding birds, have the darkest male you can secure in point of wing and undercolor of back and shoulders. This will help to improve the white necks. If in addition to dark under-color you can have a fairly good neck, also tail coverts, much improvement can be hoped for if the females are fairly good in these points. Use the best colored females that it is possible to secure. Do not hesitate to use one very dark in under-color, for on this you must depend to build up your color. By following these colors from year to year fine Brahma markings can be produced. The preceding is our opinion as to the proper matings to improve color of neck, wings and tail. We also give the matings as recommended by Mr. W. F. Entwisle, Wakefield England, to whom much credit for the production is due: "To breed good Light Brahma pullets, select as light colored a cockerel as possible, clear in body color and saddle, and only slightly striped in hackle, with the darkest hackled and blackest tailed hens possible to obtain, with white backs and wings. To breed cockerels, select the most perfect cock or cockerel you can obtain, good in hackle and saddle, very full-feathered, and fine in shape. Put the bird so selected with hens as white in wing and body as possible, even if a little wanting in color of hackle. These matings are not certain in their results, but there is no more reliable rule that can be followed by those of little experience."

This style of mating must produce nice, clear white birds, but cannot improve the black markings so much desired by us.

The future popularity of these Bantams must depend upon our ability to have them correct in shape and color. White Cochin Bantams with pea combs and black shadings will not do. We must have true Brahma shape and markings. The striping of hackle must equal the hackle markings of the large Brahmas. More color must be had in wings, and the tail coverts must have the white lacing. As the standard describes the Light Brahma for shape and color, so must the Light Brahma Bantam be. We know that there is an inclination towards Cochin shape for the Brahma, but there is entirely too much of that already in our Brahma Bantams; so the tendency should be away from this as far as possible for better Brahma shape. As we progress in this we should keep a close watch on color so as to have it better all the time. Comments on Brahma Bantams, which follow, give an insight into their origin and breeding in England.

DARK BRAHMA BANTAMS IN AMERICA

Dark Brahma Bantams should be a perfect counterpart of larger fowls of the same kind. Those we have seen shall be our guide in describing them. The male bird is a perfect Dark Brahma in color, rather large for a Bantam and with too much tail for a Brahma. The top color is clear and silvery, and he is much better in neck than the Light Brahma. The body, in color, is fairly good as to the shade of black, but badly marked with spots of white. We have never seen one with a pure black breast and fluff, but the comb, beak, legs and leg and toe feathering in both male and female are very good. The females are fair as to color; penciling very uneven and indistinct; tails over-sized, and the birds themselves larger than the Light Brahma Bantams. To bring this variety within bounds calls for careful study in mating them.

Select the smallest specimens of both males and females which you can secure; use only females that show a tendency to penciling in their plumage, and males that are very clear in top color. If this mating shows improvement in the plumage of the female, select the best of them to breed back to the sire, retaining some of the males to breed with the females of the next cross. In this way you can build up your blood lines. Never breed brother and sister together. By following this rule for three or four seasons good results must be the outcome. The Darks have better general markings to start with at the present time than the Lights. For this reason better results may be expected with them at an earlier day than with the others. Both will demand patience and proper handling to make them perfect Brahmas.

When I wrote the above, five years ago, I had not the slightest idea that before "The Bantam Fowl" was published I should be at work on improving this variety of Bantams. Chance threw in my way a pair of Dark Brahma Bantams, fashioned after the description given above. With this pair I bred a very high quality Dark Brahma female of rather small size which Mr. Newton Adams, of Utica, sent

me. Following this, I crossed the product of both hens. The Bantam hen chicks are those from Mr. Adams' hen, and vice versa. For five seasons has this work gone on. The best has been selected each year, and all that could be done to improve size, shape and color has been done; and even with all this, I can only say that I have them better than ever before, but not as good as I should like to have.

Both males and females are within the weight limit. Some of the males have clean black breasts; all of them have good combs and color. The females have color and markings almost equal to the large Dark Brahmas. But the Brahma shape is not so good as could be wished for; but when we compare what we now have with what we had to begin with five years ago, the improvement is quite gratifying. There was too much hock and Cochin shape to start with, which was hard to contend with, and later importations from England did not help this any, as their standard description would indicate.

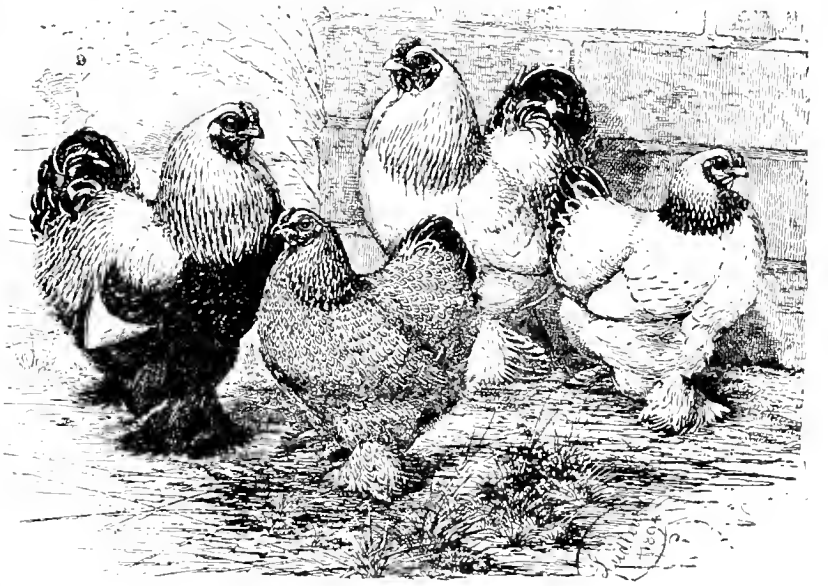
I have found that following advice I gave five years ago about breeding I have improved them wonderfully, and I feel fully repaid for all the effort put forth in their behalf. So far no double matings have been made. All males and females have come from the one line of mating; but as soon as the stock in hand is equal to it I shall begin to build up one line to produce males and another for females, for in this way only shall we be able to have the clear black breasts in the males and the clear color for the females.

Brahma Bantams are increasing in popularity with marked rapidity, and in consequence many of our leading shows have suffered considerably with some of the classes, for other varieties than Games, as one of our leading papers has already stated.

We have to thank the late Mr. W. F. Entwisle, of Wakefield, for their first introduction, which I believe was in the year 1885. Other strains have made their appearance, but I believe that he was the first to exhibit this variety. In manufacturing them, other breeds were introduced and it will be understood that this was a necessity. One could not expect to get a cross direct from a large Brahma and, say, a Pekin Bantam. Among these birds introduced were the Grey Aseel and the Booted Bantam. The latter I consider was a mistake and one that gives Brahma Bantam breeders considerable trouble to this day. Any breeder of the Booted Bantams will have noticed the great prepotency of this variety, with his legs close together, vulture hocked, and worse still, a space without feathers on the shanks just under the hock. I draw attention to this fact for the guidance of our new fanciers, as traces of this Booted Bantam blood appear in almost every hatch, although the parents may not show any signs of these defects. It is also a curious thing that those defects are much more strongly marked in the cockerels than in the pullets.

ENGLISH DARK BRAHMA BANTAMS.

I did not commence to manufacture my strain of Dark Brahmas until 1884. The cockerel that I commenced with was one of a well known large strain. He was hatched late in the season and reared on foods heavy in flesh formers, but deficient in bone forming material. He was quite a great success and weighed six and one-half pounds when fully matured. The others from the same lot were much larger, coarse in bone and some nearly double in weight. I am not going to tell you what breed of hen I mated with him, but I managed to get eighteen chickens from the pair. The first season I had not a single gray one amongst them, but there were two pullets excellent in shape, good foot feathers and excellent Brahma heads and combs. In color they were something like very bad colored Light Brahmas with a fair amount of brown in them. I mated these two with the six and one-half pound cock, and the next season every chick hatched was a good gray color, but only three showed much sign of penciling. However, with careful selection, always choosing the pullets with the finest bone, I managed to get one fit for exhibition in 1889. I was very proud of her. She weighed thirty-two ounces when in full feather. I won a first prize with her in a mixed class the first time I exhibited her. I then had several successful seasons with this variety, and in 1893 I bred what I believe to be (and it was also the opinion of many of our best judges) the most perfect Dark

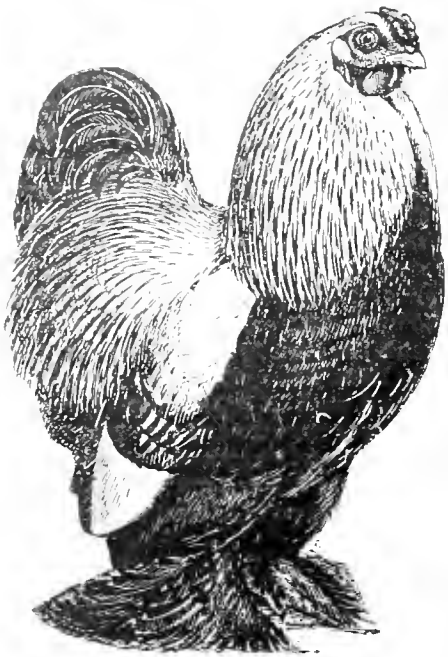


LIGHT AND DARK BRAHMA BANTAMS.

By Courtesy of Feathered World.

Brahma Bantam ever exhibited, "Pownall Pride." An excellent portrait of this bird appears in "Entwisle's Bantams," drawn by our popular poultry artist, Mr. Ludlow. I still have this little bird and she is in the best possible health and weighs under twenty ounces. Although a fat old hen she won 1st Crystal Palace and cup Fairfield in 1893, and a large number of prizes the following two seasons at our leading shows.

The great difficulty in breeding Dark Brahma Bantams is to get hard feather, so many of the chickens coming soft and satiny, and such quality of feathers seldom carries much penciling. I say seldom, as I have had one or two specimens with this satiny surface that carried remarkable penciling, but it is the exception and not the rule, and such birds are not to be relied upon in the breeding pens. In breeding Brahma Bantams it is necessary to mate up separate pens for cockerels and pullets, and you can not expect first-class pullets, however good in penciling your hens are, from a cock perfect in his breast and fluff, nor will you get good cockerels from a perfect colored cock and heavily laced hens. The mating is the same required in the larger varieties, with the exception that the neck and legs should be shorter in proportion than those accepted in the larger variety. This is most important, as it gives the Bantam "make-



DARK BRAHMA BANTAM COCK, SULTAN
BRED BY MR. BUTTERWORTH

up necessary for the show pens.

The Dark Brahma Bantam cock should have head feathers of good, clear white, distinctly striped with black, the stripes getting wider down to the shoulders and back. The back and wing bow should be clear white, well striped with black, and the stripes increasing in width on the tail coverts. The breast, thigh, fluff, shank and foot feathers should be as black as possible. The tail is black, but a narrow white edge to the sickles is considered a point in their favor by many judges. The wing-butts and shoulders are black; wing-bars, tail coverts and side sickles, beetle green; shanks as yellow as possible, generally a dusky yellow; beak, horn-colored; comb, wattles and lobes, bright red; the comb small and triple; eyes, red. Hen, white on head and evenly striped with rich black on her hackle. The tail should be black, slightly marked with gray, the rest of the body one shade of slate gray, with dark, almost black, pencilings. There are often other shades of gray in the winners, but the slate gray birds I find retain their colors longer than those with light ground color. The Brahma Bantam is quite distinct from the Cochin, and must be active, lively and spirited.

ENGLISH LIGHT BRAHMA BANTAMS

We owe this introduction into our poultry yards to the same source as the Darks, as they were manufactured at the same time, and I know of no other strain than the ones in England, although having been in the hands of various breeders for some years, who having different ideas as to what they should have, have changed them so much that they now look like distinct strains when they meet at the exhibitions. Light Brahma Bantams are much easier to breed than the Darks, although not so taking to the eye of many fanciers. They are certainly easier to meet with, as the Darks are now very scarce indeed. Light Brahma Bantams should be exact copies of their larger brothers and sisters in miniature, with the exception that they should be shorter in leg and neck. These points are of great importance, as they give the Bantam "make-up" required.

In mating for show cockerels a perfect colored show cockerel very sharp and dense in his hackle markings, mated with a hen very pure in her white and in hackle rather deficient in marking for the show pen, will breed what you require.

For the production of show pullets you require a perfect colored hen very sharp and intensely black in her hackle striping, mated with a cockerel lightly striped in hackle and a good, clear white. If you follow this advice you will get both cockerels and pullets that are good, typical specimens in color.

The Light Brahma Bantam cock should have a pure white head, a pure white hackle, the lower part distinctly striped with black, the breast, shoulders, wing, back and thighs pure white. The fluff is white, but often the under fluff is gray, and such specimens are very useful in the breeding pen when the hackles are growing weak in striping. The saddle is generally slightly striped, but this should only be lightly marked, and not too much of it. The primaries and secondaries should show black on their inside when the wing is opened. The outer feathers of the tail should be slightly edged with white and it is in the bird's favor if the sickles are also laced with white. The toes, shanks and scales should be bright yellow or orange, also the beak.

The hen should have a pure white head and very darkly striped hackle; breast, thighs, wings and body all pure white, the primaries and secondaries showing black, like the cock, the tail black, with white lacing or edging on the upper feathers. The strongest birds have always bright red eyes and are to be preferred to the yellow-eyed ones.

R. BUTTERWORTH.

EXPERIENCE WITH DARK BRAHMA BANTAMS.

BY PHILANDER WILLIAMS.

Just how to bring the Dark Brahma Bantams to the highest perfection of color and penciling is the most important point. They like the Partridge Cochin Bantam, will be valued in proportion to their high qualities of color and fine finish of penciling. The fine gray color of the Dark Brahma female and the delicate dark penciling must be most perfect in these Bantams or else they are of no value. We lay before our readers the advice of experts who have shown their ability to successfully handle the large specimens. Below are the words of the time-honored Mr. Philander Williams, of Taunton, Mass., who donates his experience for our use:

"In regard to Dark Brahma Bantams, I would say I know nothing. Of course, they are produced from a cross of some varieties and it is evident that they have not been bred long enough to have the color established. I see no way to get the color but to breed them together and then select each year such specimens as you think will improve the color. I think the proper way to breed Dark Bantams is by a double mating and breeding in, although I never did this. The reason, I will tell you further on. I always have mated to breed nicely penciled pullets. I have always tried

T. F. McGREW'S DARK BRAHMA BANTAM.

to have a nicely striped hackle and saddle on the male, but prefer him mottled considerably on breast and fluff. You will remember when the females were quite brown, but now you see quite often a nice silver gray hen with scarcely any brown, and I believe this has been brought about by light colored males and breeding in. I never have dared buy a male because I did not know his breeding, and unless you do know how a male was bred he would probably spoil the color of your females.

"I give you a little experience. Last season I found my males had poor hackles and saddles, so much so that I was compelled to buy a male. I mated him, but you may be sure I had other matings of my old stock. I did not expect to get any well penciled pullets from the new cockerel and I was not disappointed. Cockerels are good, and an improvement, but the pullets are way off. Now, I do not care what the breeder says about the breeding of the cockerel, and I did not ask him a word. I know he was not bred out of nicely penciled females. But you take this cock (now) and mate him with nice shaped females with little or no penciling and you will get splendid cockerels. I said I never dared mate to breed cockerels, because they would be good for nothing as breeders and one might be tempted to breed them because they would be so handsome, and thus lose years in breeding penciling in females. I see no way for you to do only to breed the Dark Brahma Bantam and select each year the lightest colored cockerels and, what I call, work them up. You can do it, but it will take time. Partridge Cochins are the same as Dark Brahmas in breeding."

DARK BRAHMA BANTAM BREEDING.

BY H. A. MANSFIELD.

Mr. H. A. Mansfield, of Waltham, Mass., writes me as follows:

"Yours of the 18th at hand, asking me how I would proceed to bring Dark Brahma Bantams to as fine color and markings as shown in my best specimens of standard Dark Brahmas. In reply I must say that I would never expect to accomplish that while at the same time I was trying to dwarf them in size to Bantams. I have had twenty years of experience in breeding Dark Brahmas exclusively. I have tried many experiments and made careful note of the successes and failures not only my own, but those of others. Long ago I discovered that quite as much depends on the care and feeding, and locality where they are grown, as on the stock they are from. I have had birds raised in different localities, all from eggs from my very best hens, but to see them in the fall one would suppose them from as many different strains. Those raised on poor soil without plenty of shade, and perhaps poorly fed, would be a sorry lot, not one in a dozen that I would not be ashamed to have seen in my own yards; while another lot of the same age would have a fair amount of fine specimens.

"Every year I have raised two or three dozen at home, where they have had the best care I could give them, and among these few I have always found my best birds. It seems strange, but it has always been my experience that whenever chicks are stunted they have invariably been bad in shape and worse in color. Hence I say I would never expect to get such color on birds that have been hatched very late and starved to make them small as I would on birds encouraged from the egg to make strong, vigorous specimens. The same care and food that make flesh make feathers. I have never raised a bird that was a cripple or stunted in size that was good in plumage. If you succeed in establishing a strain of Dark Brahma Bantams that are as fine in color and markings as is often seen in the standard Dark Brahmas, you will have accomplished a great feat, and will be entitled to your reward. I appreciate your ambition."

DOUBLE MATING DARK BRAHMA BANTAMS.

Mr. John A. Warner, of Niskayuna, N. Y., writes on this subject as follows:

"In order to mate for pullets I take a mottled breasted cock or cockerel with hens or pullets. This cock must have a good silver hackle, good dark under-color, and no red in wings. For cocks I take a dark-breasted cock or cockerel, silver hackle, good under-color, no red in wings, and free from white feathers in the toes and legs when they can be so obtained. For pullets you want the hens rather dark. These are the points I use.

BUFF BRAHMA BANTAMS.

Below are facts regarding the origin of Buff Brahma Bantams as given by Mr. F. A. Roppleye, of Farmers, N. Y.: He secured from Mr. Putnam, of West Sutton, Mass., some cross-bred Bantams, the result of a cross with Golden Sebrights and Buff Cochin Bantams, some of them almost perfect in Brahma markings. The best of these females he bred with one of his staudard sized Buff Brahma males and produced fine specimens of about three pounds weight. These were crossed with some birds produced by crossing Sebrights, Japanese, Silkies and Buff Cochin Bantams. These crosses produced better Pea Combs and Brahma markings than the other. The offspring of these crosses have been improved by selecting the most perfect specimens and breeding them together until the proper size and marking for a Buff Brahma Bantam are his reward.

PEKIN OR COCHIN BANTAMS

The five varieties of Cochin Bantams are the most attractive of all Bantam breeds. Their beautiful form and colors and hardy constitution make them the most desirable as a general purpose Bantam, giving them a commercial value, as well as fancy. They are very prolific layers of rich, high flavored eggs, and their plump little bodies make either a broiler or a pheasant, when needed for special occasions.

One of the marked differences is the deep or reddish color of the male as compared to the female Buff Cochin Bantam. This was the natural color as they came from China. The proper way to breed them to conform with their natural condition is red males to the lighter colored females. This kind of mating reproduced of their kind.

The red color of the male should not be encouraged by preference; rather should a good, sound buff in both male and female have the favored place. If the standard would demand small size in all varieties, a pure buff, black, white, or partridge color, as it may be, with no foreign color in either, we would soon have all varieties conforming to one uniform standard for shape by adopting a proper form and holding to it. The size and weight of Pekins, as in all Bantams, should be about one-fifth of the size and weight of the large or standard breed of the same variety. We believe this is the English rule on all Bantams, and it might be a good rule for us to follow. Do not, however, for one moment fall into the grave error of thinking that the smaller the better for all Bantams. This has gone too far already with some varieties. All Bantams should be as small as the law of nature will allow and still maintain their form and vigor.

When below this they should be discredited for under-size and loss of constitution.

Cochin Bantams are troubled with two grave faults, bad shaped backs, and too long legs. These faults seem to be more serious in the Buff than in the others.

We must not expect to remedy this in a year's time, but all should contend for better form, feather and color.

The standard calls for the same general form as for standard Cochins, but it must be remembered that the tail formation of Pekins is quite different from their larger cousins; so this alone must change their form somewhat. Figs. 1 and 2 show what might be considered proper form from side and rear views of the male.

To be good Cochin Bantams they must be miniatures of standard Cochins. The neck of the Pekin should be short and full, in fact, the neck of the cock bird should be very full and heavy looking, see Fig. 1. The back should widen from front to rear, saddle very full. The cushion and saddle of a good Pekin cock should rise from between his shoulders and not just forward of the tail proper, as is so often seen. The tail should be very full and surrounded with abundant saddle feathers and tail coverts with but few hard quills. The tail should help to add shape to both back and saddle. The fluff under the saddle and tail should be very full. This formation makes the most perfect and handsome looking bird. This is the natural tail formation for the Pekin, see Fig. 1.

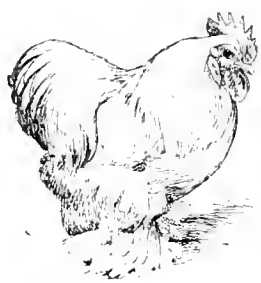


FIG. 1 SIDE VIEW OF COCHIN MALE.

The legs of the Pekin should be short; in fact, a mature cock bird when well feathered should appear as if his body almost touched the ground. To have this form his body must be set low between the legs, and the fluff must be quite abundant; this also widens out his legs and adds to their breadth. Always remember, however, that a Cochin Bantam never reaches its full form under sixteen or eighteen months, and is often two years old before it is fully developed. Quite often this is forgotten, and we expect to see a matured form on a young specimen.

The female must also conform to the description of a standard Cochin. Head, neck and body formation should be a miniature Cochin. The divided back so often seen, more especially in Buffs, should be guarded against; this is from lack of cushion and a narrow tail. The narrow or flat tail grows up between the wings, unsupported by any cushion, and gives the divided form of back, which is the very worst defect a Cochin Bantam can have, and should be stamped out as soon as possible. Do not hope to do this in a day, for it may take years to fully accomplish it, as it did in the standard varieties, and even now it is often seen in them.

The cushion should begin just back of her shoulders and sweep back about the tail as in a well formed Cochin pullet of the larger variety. The Pekin's tail being composed of flexible or soft feathers, adds much to the beauty of a proper back and cushion, see, Figs. 2 and 3. The tendency at this time is to improve their form and color by crossing with the larger Cochins, and that is changing the tail formation to conform more to the larger Cochins.

Figs. 2 and 3 furnish the rear view of the proper formation—broad, full and well feathered with good fluff almost to the ground. This is a description of a fully developed hen. Do not hope for this just yet in a pullet. Let it be your aim to produce this form and feather, if possible, on a pullet, but feel satisfied when you have it in a moderate degree, for the female, like the male, continues to improve in form and feather each year, and never fully develops until the second year.

The combs of many of our Cochin Bantams are much larger than their size and beauty demand. This might be improved, and also the shape of the comb. No reason can be advanced for a small Cochin cock having a comb almost as large as a Leghorn's. All these points only need our close attention to be soon corrected.

FIG. 2. REAR VIEW OF COCHIN MALE.

The following points should be always remembered in breeding Cochin Bantams: The neck should be short and full, neatly arched; the body should lean slightly forward, and the top of the tail be almost as high as the top of the head on the male. The head should not be held high above the body on a long, slim neck overlooking a slim, flat tail, all these points must be considered in the producing of a perfect Cochin Bantam.

The Cochin Bantams came from Pekin, China, to England in 1860. The first that came were Buffs. For many years no other color was known, and then came the Blacks. At the time of the coming of the Blacks the original Buff stock was almost run out by inbreeding. They were improved by crossing them with White Booted Bantams. This cross aggravated the tendency toward extended hocks that still exists in this variety. These crosses produced the foundation of the Cuckoo Pekin stock, afterwards built up with birds of the same markings from China. The early Black Pekin males were crossed upon the Buff, and this cross produced some cockerels very near Partridge color. The cross of the White Booted Bantams on the Buffs also gave the foundation for the Whites. We give our English brothers the credit for building up the five colors of Cochin Bantams. We of this side of the world have made several efforts to produce by crossing and reducing some Partridge Pekins, but up to this time nothing of much value has resulted from our efforts. Many have introduced standard Cochin blood into the Buff Pekins with some benefit. No one has, to our knowledge, produced either Partridge or Cuckoo colored birds of high quality in this country. Some are now being bred and we hope to see them in the show room.

BUFF COCHIN BANTAMS

Buff Cochin Bantams or Pekins were, as stated by the best English authority, first bred to some extent by Mr. Kenick, of Dorking, who bred in and in from the original importation for almost twenty years, until size and constitution were gone. Others secured some of the same stock from him and introduced new blood by importation and a cross, as above stated, with the White Booted, building up their constitution. Some also introduced Nankin Bantam blood. This cross did not harm the color of feather to any great extent, but it darkened their legs and made them longer, also reduced the leg and toe feathering and spoiled their shape and form of back, breast and tail. Evidently the first that came to this country were tainted with the Nankin blood, for a large per cent of them had bad colored legs and scant leg and toe feathering. Those produced here of good form are descendants of a cross with the standard Cochins and reduced by crossing with smaller specimens.

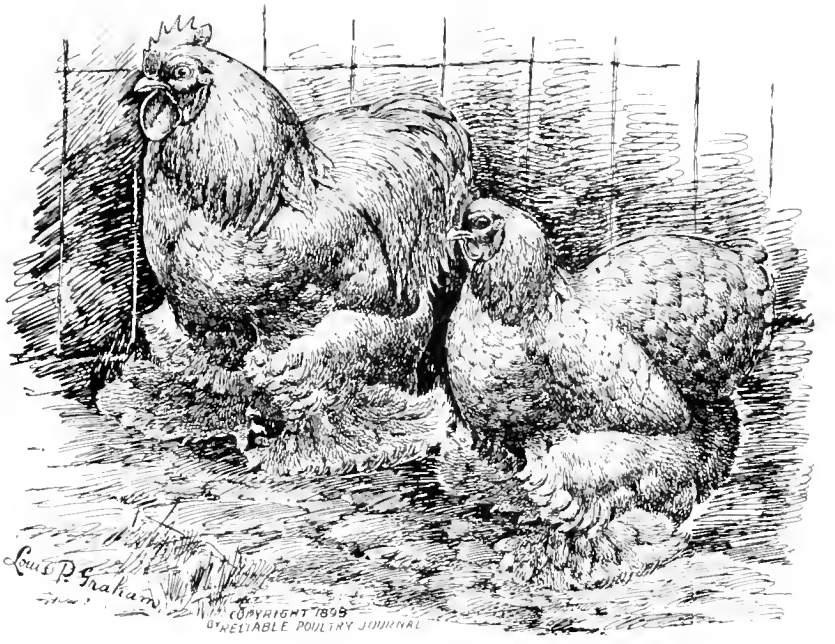
FIG. 3. REAR VIEW OF COCHIN HEN.

Mr. Entwisle, of England, who purchased some stock

from our country, writes of them as follows: "One great point we value most highly, and we think our English breeders will not be long in recognizing, is the sound, even color insisted upon by the Americans. They say: 'A Buff must be a buff, perfectly free from any dark shade in fluff or fleece of feather, buff under the wing when expanded, buff in all the tail and foot feathers.' A bronze tail is considered a blemish, and the Americans do not allow such faults to be hidden or disguised by pulling out the faulty feathers." These words are quite complimentary to our ability to breed good color and should be strictly adhered to. If all judges will continue to refuse to place awards on coops containing specimens that plainly show evidence of being plucked, whether Bantams or any other kind of fowls, in a very short time none of this kind would appear, and all would buy or breed the right or standard forms and colors.

We will refer to a few points of difference between our standard and the English. Plumage of Cochin Bantams with them is so described: "Very abundant, long and quite soft; the fluff which grows between the saddle and thighs so full as to hide the latter; weight, thirty-two to thirty-six ounces." The cut of an English cock will illustrate this. This feather formation and full breast make them look very short of leg. Their demand for general shape and carriage is as follows: "Broad, deep, plump and well rounded; the carriage bold, rather forward, but low, the head being not much higher than the tail." The weights are in the proportion demanded for all Bantams, one-fifth of the regular Cochin. This is the same in our standard for females, but for males we demand less weight than one-fifth.

Nature has declared for the Buff Cochin Bantams in their natural state that the males shall be of richer and darker color than the females. When mated, the females, if several shades lighter color than the male, will produce females of their own color and males like their sire. A light colored male bred to females of his own color produces better males than females. The latter will be much paler of color than the mother's. This has been overcome somewhat by the cross with the large Cochins.



BUFF COCHIN BANTAMS

The color of the Buff Pekin, whether male or female, must be pure and true, whether of a light or dark shade. We began two years ago to work for the proper buff shade for both males and females, using a light colored male with a hen whose breast color was the same shade as the breast of the male. Two cockerels from this mating won first and second at New York in January, 1897. One of the same lot headed first pen at the same show. In getting this color we have lost some in the color of females, also in undercolor of both male and female. This year, 1897, we have used these males on the best colored females and feel satisfied with the result, as the young stock shows much improvement, many of the males being an even golden buff throughout, and the females are much better than last season.

In the English Bantam Club's Year Book, Ethel A. Southam, writing on the Pekin Bantam, the name which the English fanciers seem to cling to, says:

"A good many years have elapsed—still how recent it seems—since the days when the phenomenon of a Pekin Bantam in the show pen was regarded as quite an event, yet now we number our entries by hundreds! There is no doubt they are one of the most popular varieties of the Lilliputian breeds, and this is principally owing, not only to their prepossessing appearance, but to the singular docility and tameness of their disposition. They are so wonderfully contented—the lowest fence will generally keep them safely within bounds, and even if allowed an unlimited range, they seldom stray far beyond the immediate vicinity of their own house, thus rendering it possible to keep several pens of brids in one field or paddock without any risk of interference from their respective neighbors.

"Then, again, they require so little preparation before entering the lists for competition, beyond keeping the foot feather in good condition, and preserving—in the case of Buffs and Whites—the color of the plumage, there is really scarcely anything else to be done. The manipulation to which so many breeds have to be subjected, the skillful training which is absolutely necessary for their deportment, and last, but by no means least, the ghastly process called "dubbing," all this is happily unknown to the Pekin.

"With regard to their points, the characteristics of our old familiar friend, the Cochin, should be faithfully reproduced, in almost every detail, in miniature. To describe them briefly, the head should be small and neat, with a perfectly upright comb, as smooth and fine in texture as possible, the beak short and rather parrot like in shape, and the eyes round and full. The neck of the cock should be short and nicely curved, with an abundance of hackle flowing well over the shoulders and back, the breadth of the latter being almost out of proportion to the size of the bird. The tail should rise without the slightest angle from the saddle, forming one unbroken line, and the ends of the small wings should be clipped closely to the sides, where they will be partially buried in fluff. Again, the breast, very broad and prominent, and the inordinately short legs set well apart, and feathered heavily to the very end of the middle toe—all this should give the cobby, Cochiny appearance which now may be seen to such perfection in the best Pekins.

"If the birds are to make any name in the show world, too much attention cannot be paid them at the outset of their career—the feeding and rearing of Bantam chickens being perhaps a feature in itself. The problem is, how to give them enough food to bring them up through the trying struggles of chickenhood, without nourishing them to such an extent, that a few months hence they will be mistaken

for a number of badly grown Cochins. Yet to err on the other side is even worse. Pekins are delicate little things, and the probabilities are they will succumb altogether if the would-be exhibitor attempts to starve his chickens. At the same time as they grow and thrive, any unnecessary bone making food may safely be discontinued, and substitutes such as rice, canary seed, etc., should be given. Still always feed liberally—no prizes will ever be won by poorly fed, ill-nurtured birds—even if they survived such Spartanlike treatment the chances are they would never attain the high condition which is such a necessary feature in the show pen."

Some of the very best Cochin Bantams that have ever been shown in England have been reared and shown by Ethel A. Southam, one of the most ardent fanciers of the whole Bantam Club, and writer of the above. Some of her best productions have found their way to this country, and we have bred from them to the fourth generation. Their great strength of character and blood influence are shown in the persistency with which they crop out. The most prominent is the hock feathering, and the color—which is much too strong for the American idea of buff. For beauty of form and feather, they are pleasing, and their use may be made a benefit; but it will take time to bring them to the American demand.

We have noticed in writings from the pen of this lady that she has bred in and in the distinctive features which she desired most prominent in her strain. Her success in England has continued through years, and her type of birds seems to have the call. Those that have come to this country would be classed as too deep a shade for true buff, however, which shows that England prefers a deeper or darker shade than we do.

THE BUFF COCHIN BANTAM IN AMERICA.

The Cochin Bantams as we now have them are truely and distinctly American. They have the comb, the shape, the feather, and the color which are most admired in Buff Cochin fowls; not the dark nor the reddish buff, but the true Golden Buff, soft and clear. Whenever you see the red color in the male Buff Cochin Bantam, you may rest assured that the owner does not know what the requirements in America are; he is keeping and selling poor quality. To sell it as cheap Bantam stock may do; but when sold for high grade, it is a mistake. Considerable injury has been done the Bantam interest through this trading in cheap stock, all of which has and will continue to reflect on Bantams so long as it goes on, and we should be outspoken against it.

FEATHER FROM BUFF COCHIN BANTAM, ILLUSTRATING THE PRESENCE OF MORE DOWN THAN WEB.

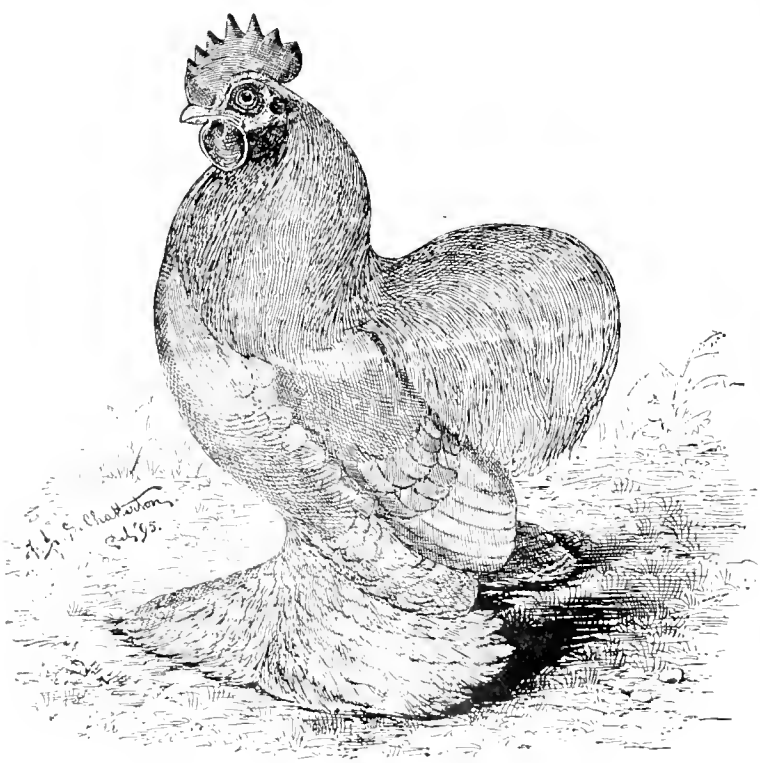
There are a few facts in connection with our Buff Cochin Bantams which should be corrected before they go too far. One is the thin surface color which some of them have. At times this color is so thin and the under-color so white that it shows through and looks like white lines, spots or streaks in the surface color. We call it white ticking, because it looks as if the whole surface is spotted with indistinct white lines which show just a little lighter than the buff color—which in itself is little darker than a pale lemon.

The true color as we should have it, is the clear, clean golden buff, which is laid on so thick and dense that the entire web of the feather is one even shade of true buff that shuts out the possibility of any ticking or marking; and the under-color, just a few shades lighter in color than the surface-color, adds to the real beauty. Such color as this in both males and females (the female not quite so deep in color as the male) is correct for this variety. Both should be one even shade from tip to tip, including tail and wings; and the evenness is quite as important as the true color. Neither black nor white should be present; but in these miniature Cochins I would rather see a little white than black, if either is present, as it is easier to drive out the white with good color than to get rid of the black.

The broad back, full cushion, and close, compact tail are demanded, as are the short full feathered thighs and shanks, with but little show of full hocks, and an entire absence of stiff hock feathers. Small well formed combs are the rule—the large combs of former days have largely disappeared.

In mating Buff Cochin Bantams, always have the best Cochin shape possible to obtain, fine comb of small size, and good, even, true buff color. Have the breast color of the male just a shade darker than the breast color of the female which goes with him. If this rule in mating is followed for three or four years you will establish a true breeding strain; and as to color, have and breed from only the golden buff of the truest kind, as we have described above; and cling to this, and to true shape and feather, and you will succeed.

In judging Buff Cochin Bantams, color seems to have the call over all else; but in too many instances bad color is encouraged. There may be some excuse for giving a prize to an unusually fine colored bird which is defective in shape, but there cannot be offered a reasonable excuse for not selecting both for a place in the line of awards. We should remember at all times that shape makes the breed; color is only the variety distinction; and without the best of shape, how can a specimen be justly awarded a prize among Cochin Bantams? Again, without good color, how can it be classed as a worthy specimen of its variety? Both



AN ENGLISH BUFF COCHIN COCK.

of these features are of vital importance when placing an award for quality.

BLACK COCHIN BANTAMS

Black Cochin Bantams come next to the Buffs, and here we shall again quote from Mr. W. F. Entwisle, the noted English writer, whose words far exceed our ability in describing them. He writes as follows: "In Black Cochin Bantams, color of feather and brilliancy of sheen very properly count highly, quite as much so as color does in the Buffs. The desired color is one of uniform, lustrous beetle green, as seen in the Langshan and Black Hamburgs to the greatest perfection. The under-fluff should be black down to the skin, but it is very rare that we can find a bird perfect in this respect. All the points of head, face, wattles and ear-lobes are the same as in all other Cochins, bright red, neat, smooth and even. The eye in the Black Cochin varies more than in any other variety, some being very dark brown. This we think as grave a fault as a white or pearl eye. We think the eye of the Black Cochin should be red. In breeding Blacks, it has often been noticed that it is very difficult to obtain the most perfectly colored cockerels and pullets from one pair of birds, the rule being that all the most brilliant colored pullets' brothers have more or less red feathers in their hackles, backs or saddles; whereas, all the soundest and best Black cockerels' sisters are wanting in luster or sheen, and look quite inferior in color to the pullets bred the other way.

"Where there is ample room for the purpose," Mr. Entwisle tells us, "even in starting from one common parentage, two distinct strains should be built up, the one for producing cockerels free from red or straw colored feathers, and using for this purpose only the deadest black pullets or hens mated with a sound black cock, and avoiding the more lustrous hens or pullets.

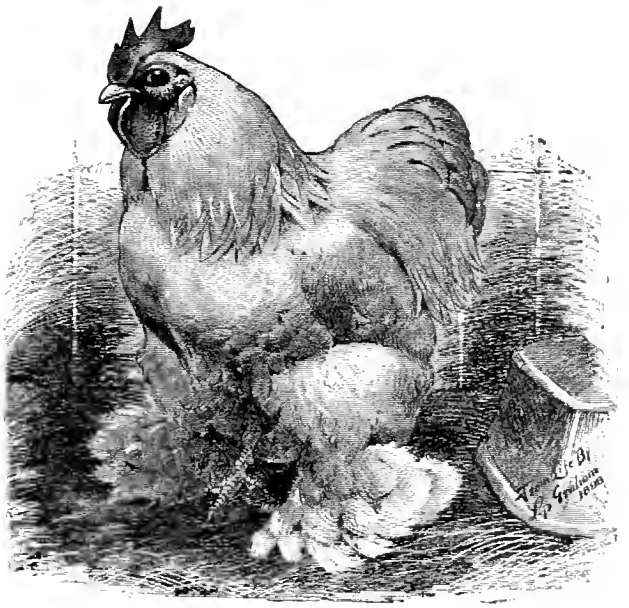
"And, on the other hand, we should select the most lustrous, beetle green winged and breasted cock, however much red he shows in neck, back or wing, and mate him with the most brilliantly colored hens or pullets, provided always that other essential points were sufficiently in evidence." The writer has demonstrated to his own satisfaction that good colored males and females can be produced from the same matings when good colors only are used. With us in America, our motto is good color, surface and under-color. This rule, properly followed, the desired end will be gained.

A PAIR OF BLACK COCHIN BANTAMS.

The proper handling of all Black fowls depends largely upon the true color of the male. If the male bird is a cock bird of true color the chances are that a large per cent of his chicks will be true to color. In selecting breeding stock of Black Cochin Bantams go down to the very skin in neck, back and breast feathers; also look well to color of wings at the very point where they come from the flesh. If the color is dark clear to the skin it can be depended upon. No strain of black fowls ever produced all of its chicks pure black. Some produce quite a large proportion of pure black females, but few produce true colored males, and these in turn produce but a small per cent that are perfect in color. This can be improved year by year if only cock birds of the truest color are used, for you can place dependence on the reproducing of true color if the sire himself is a two-year-old. The more of the bright lustrous sheen on your breeding stock the better. Even if they produce some offspring with red cast in plumage, it is far better to maintain the rich beetle green with a per cent of birds with reddish cast than to lose the color and have white. Both Black and White Cochin Bantams have a tendency to white in ear-lobes. This should be guarded against with great care. It usually comes with the very best specimens and the temptation to use them often overcomes our better judgment and stamps the fault upon the flock. This takes years to get rid of. Better keep it out than be compelled to breed it out.

We consider yellow legs a mistake on Black Cochin Bantams. If you have on your birds yellow legs and white in neck and ear-lobes, you may be certain the blood is bad and you need not hope for pure black in plumage. Better discard your whole flock and begin again with a few well selected birds from some well established strain that has perfect color of ear-lobe and plumage, with dark colored legs, the darker the better, just so they show yellow inside of feet. If we hope to establish a pure, solid black plumage, we must get rid of all the yellow possible in every part of the bird. They are not a utility fowl, so give them all the advantage possible in color.

As to the point of overcoming one fault by extra good



GOLD DUST CHAMPION,
BUFF COCHIN BANTAM, BRED BY T. F. McGREW.

points in the same section of the mate, this may counterbalance the fault, but you can depend upon it the fault will show itself in the future. Never breed from a bird with a serious fault in shape; get the best and discard bad defects.

No variety of our Bantams has gained more in both the qualities of shape and color in the past few years than has our Black Cochin Bantam. The size of both body and comb has been reduced, the white in under-color of neck has been driven out, and in many instances the under color of neck is black almost, as is the surface color. The size of the males has been very much reduced; and be it said to their credit that a Black Cochin male stood second to the best Buff ever shown at the Boston show for the challenge cup of 1902. This Black Cochin Bantam male was a wonder in his entire make-up. The backs have been very much improved upon and shortened, cushion and fluff increased so much as to place them right in the front rank for feather. More good Black Cochins have been shown the past winter at one or two shows than have ever been seen, all told, for several winters.

BLACK COCHIN BANTAMS.

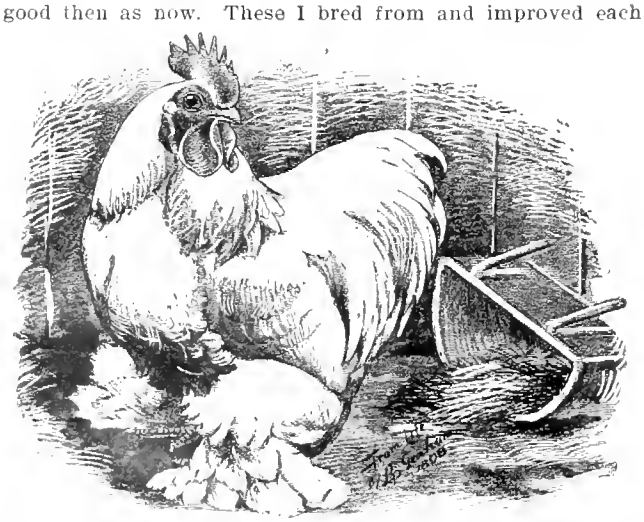
BY MR. D. A. NICHOLS.

Of all the breeders of Cochin Bantams none have surpassed Mr. David A. Nichols. To him is due the honor of establishing a strain of Black Cochin Bantams free from all white in plumage. The following is from his pen, especially for the readers of this book:

Mr. T. F. McGrew:

I can not think myself a successful breeder of Bantams; each year brings me some new disappointment. Hopes cherished for months fall away in non-realization of some improvement confidently looked for. But still, many of these disappointments are softened with the knowledge that other points are strengthened and we are better and stronger for another season.

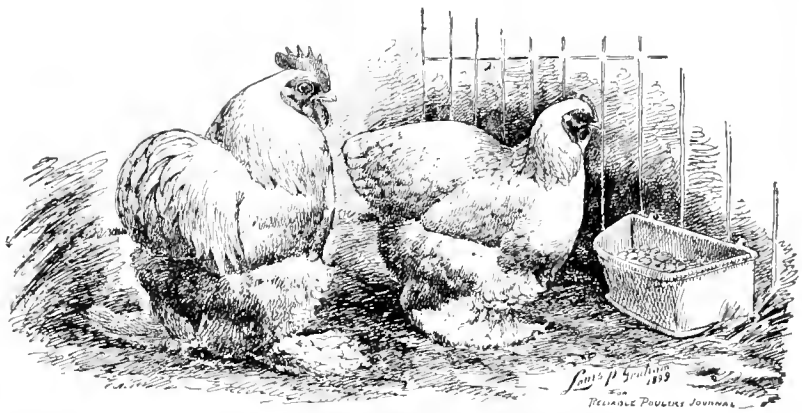
My first selection of Black Cochin Bantams was made from the best I could find. Color, form and size were not so good then as now. These I bred from and improved each



WHITE COCHIN BANTAM "SNOWDROP," BRED AT ELMWOOD FARM.

year by selecting the best of all and inbreeding, always discarding a fault in form or color, till I had established a solid black plumage on some fairly well formed birds. These were mated to hold color and improve the Cochin form. The records must tell whether I have been successful in my efforts or not.

My chicks are hatched under hens on a farm near by (not having room at home), light-weight barn yard fowls being used as sitters, each hen having from fifteen to eighteen eggs. Each hen is given from twelve to fifteen chicks to care for. They and the mother hen are placed in a coop out in the garden, or where no grass grows, as I have had poor success in my efforts to rear them on a grass plot. The birds, when young, will ramble in the grass when it is wet



A PAIR OF WHITE COCHIN BANTAMS.

from rain or dew, and a few days of this will cause them to dwindle and die.

The chicks are fed the first few days on cooked oat meal. After one week they have the food known as H. O., and are fed with this till large enough to eat wheat. When at this age they are confined in covered wire runs and not allowed to roam about and grow too fast. I find that when allowed their freedom they are quite liable to grow into over-sized birds.

The breeding birds are kept in separate pens that have a wire netting cover over them to prevent the birds from getting out or into the wrong pen. It also prevents hawks or cats from bothering them. It is quite a pleasure to see a hawk dart down for a specimen to his liking and injure himself on the wire covering. In pens of this kind you will always feel content that the birds are quite safe.

Upon the subject of mating I will be silent. Having heard the saying, "Tell a chopper by his chips," it is far better that I should not claim the art of knowing how to mate or produce good ones, for by so doing I lay myself open to the criticism of those who do know how.

D. A. Nichols.

The improved color has come from the continued breeding together of the very richest colored specimens. And shape has been improved by selection. Size has been reduced by late hatching and the continued use of small females. This same method will bring improvement to any breed or variety of Bantams if continued in. Great credit should be given to small size, good form, and true color in this variety.

WHITE COCHIN BANTAMS

White Cochin Bantams of very good form and color are bred by a number of Bantam experts. They are quite well feathered, and as a class average better in general Cochin characteristics than the other varieties; the chief difficulty is the tendency of the males to turn yellow in color. This fault can be bred out of them by using as breeders birds having a perfectly white shaft in their feathers. This may have a tendency to whiten the color of leg and beak, but better this fault than yellow plumage.

It is said by experts that the purest white specimens,

Partridge Cochin Bantam Feather, showing Full Fluff as it should be.

when first hatched, show a sooty shade of color. This grayish color is said to promise better color when matured than the yellow cast. Of this we cannot say from experience, but we know that if pure white to the skin when hatched, they will mature to a beautiful pearly white. The Whites, we believe, will become the banner Bantam of them all.

In many cases the White and Black specimens far excel the Buffs in true Cochin qualities. They, like all but the Buffs, came from a cross with their larger cousins, and carry the Cochin shape, none but the Buffs having suffered in shape and feather by the cross with Nankin and White Booted Bantams. These faults are fast disappearing from the Buffs, and soon we may hope to see Cochin wonders in miniature form of the five colors at our exhibitions. Of one point too much can not be said. It is quite true that the smaller the better if true Cochin shape is maintained, but close feathering is not Cochin form. Cochins should have long, fluffy feathers, and these close-feathered birds that look small should not be allowed to gain the ascendency, for if they do the true Cochin Bantam is gone.

The following is from the pen of Mr. A. P. Groves, a true fancier, who contributes his experience to this work:

Mr. T. F. McGrew:

The American White Pekin or Cochin Bantams were originated by me about eight years ago. I was breeding Buff Pekins at that time and some of their progeny came pure white. I bred these white specimens together and established what is known as the Snow-Drop strain. There was no booted Bantam or other blood used in their composition. They are now well distributed over the United States, and some have gone to England to compete for prizes there. In many instances they have been successful. I consider our home-bred birds the equal of those sent from England, if they are not the superior. Some of these may be whiter in plumage, they having paid more attention than we to this point, but in shape, leg and toe feathering we acknowledge no superiority. Having as careful breeders here as there are on the other side, why should we fall behind them?

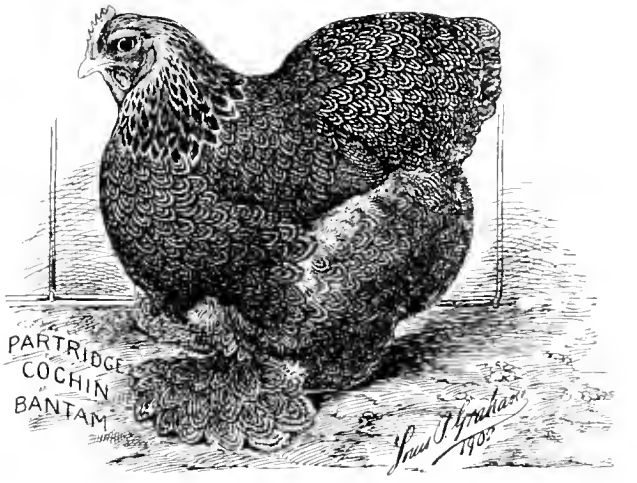
I consider the White Cochin, when well bred, the handsomest of the Bantam family. Care should be exercised in breeding them. Only birds of good shape and heavy leg and toe feathering should be used; otherwise you will have many culls. Never breed from a bird with light leg or toe feathering, no matter how good otherwise. In regard to feeding the chicks, give them bread soaked in sweet milk, not too wet, for a month or six weeks; after that give them whole wheat. I have followed this rule for several years, and seldom lose a chick.

A. P. GROVES.

FROM ANOTHER BREEDER OF WHITE COCHINS.

Mr. T. F. McGrew:

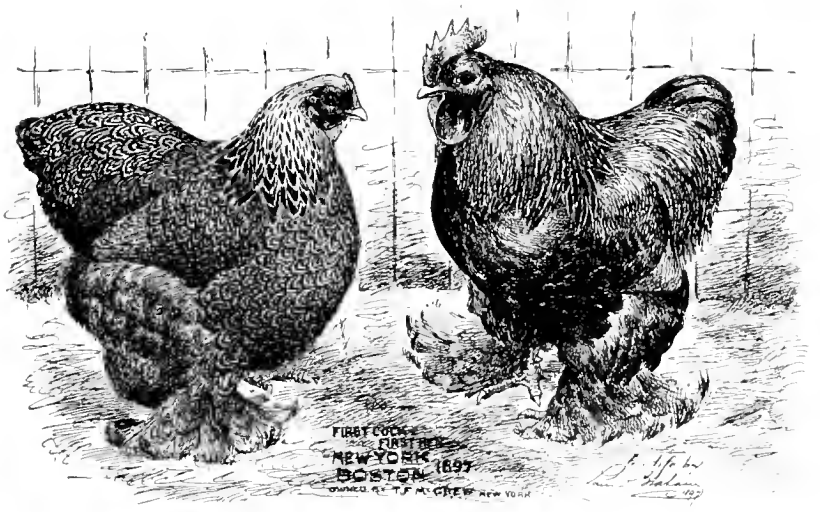
We imported our first stock of White Cochin Bantams from England. We made altogether seven importations, and we can candidly say there is no necessity for going there except for new blood to prevent inbreeding. In fact, after the new Standard is out we will not be able to import, because they breed them with both yellow and white legs and beaks. The best White Cochin Bantam we ever imported was "Nameless." She was undoubtedly the best White Cochin Bantam ever seen in America. She was even smaller than any pullet. When she was four years old she was sold for the longest price ever paid for a Cochin Bantam in this country. Messrs. Butterfield, Ball, Zimmer and Rockenstyre considered her perfection. The yellow legged strain was produced by a cross of the English and American White Cochin Bantam, breeding for a type with yellow legs and beaks, and by a very strong use of the ax on culls.



T. F. McGREW'S PARTRIDGE COCHIN BANTAM HEN.

Feed bread, cracker crumbs, oat meal, grit and wheat, with this breed. Beware of yellow corn as you would a pestilence. Where one has plenty of shade one can produce that sheeny white plumage.

CHARLES JEHL.



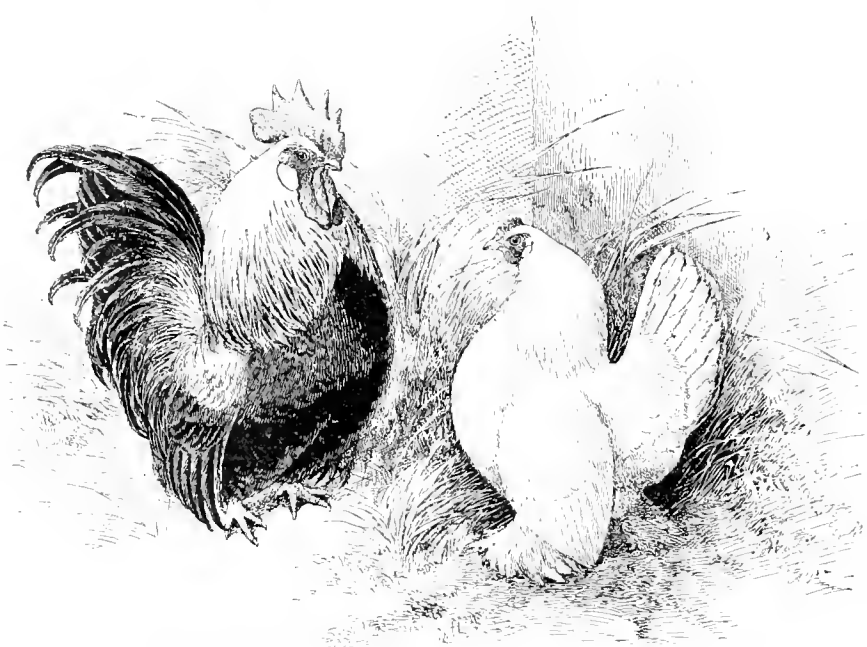
A PAIR OF PARTRIDGE COCHIN BANTAMS.

PARTRIDGE COCHIN BANTAMS.

The Partridge Cochin Bantam has the same standard colors and penciling as the larger specimens. They are the latest production in the Pekin variety. As stated, their origin was a cross of Buff and Black bred to large Cochins and reduced by care and patience to the proper form and size. The same method of producing males and females of proper

colors in the large varieties must be followed with them. We hear of superb specimens of this variety being shown in England; but their idea of color of Partridge Cochins and ours differ so much that due allowance must be made in this line. The writer is now breeding a strain of Partridge Cochin Bantams that are small in size, fine in form, and very good in color and penciling. These birds show good length of feather and fluff, also fine foot feathers, and it is my belief that within a few years they will be fully the equal of the very best Cochin Bantams. This strain has its origin in English bred birds, crossed on a small Standard female and recrossed on the imported stock. We can now feel assured of a good foundation in this variety. The winners at New York and Boston last winter were a sample of what the stock may be expected to produce. The same stock won over all others at both New York and Boston in 1898, proving their quality.

Past experience in breeding this variety has taught me the great importance of color in the male bird used to produce pullets. Of all the birds produced last season (1897) not one male bird had to be destroyed for lack of Standard color. Many pullets were of no value, their color and penciling being so defective. To produce the proper color of female the deepest red possible to obtain in males is necessary. Having been produced with a Black Breasted Red Bantam cross, but few of the males formerly showed good penciling in hackle. This is improved by the cross with a Standard or large Partridge Cochin female, and now both hackle and saddle show indications of the black stripe.



MR. M. THOMPSON'S JAPANESE COCK. MR. J. FALLEN'S WHITE BOOTED HEN. 1st Palace, 1899.

By Courtesy of Feathered World

Another fault in this variety is the tendency to long beak, fashioned after the Game Bantams. Great attention must be paid to this, for it detracts from the Cochin form and beauty. The color of the female in these Bantams is not so rich a brown as it should be. It has a tendency toward a yellowish brown, and not a reddish or mahogany brown, as demanded by our Standard for Partridge Cochin color. All these shortcomings must be improved by the careful mating of the best. They are to-day better in many ways than their larger cousins were ten years ago. They have fine Cochin shape, good leg and toe feathering and almost perfect color in the males. With these great advantages to start with, careful handling will soon reduce their size and perfect the color and marking of the female and make them fully the equal of any Cochin or Cochin Bantam.

Partridge Cochin Bantams of to-day far excel those of five years ago. As mentioned as winners of 1897, females of good form, color and markings are seen—not many of them, it is true, but quite as large a percent as is seen of the best in the larger variety which they miniature. In males the hackle and saddle markings are better, and the whole make-up more in conformity with the true Cochin type. The English writers and breeders state there is but very little improvement in this variety with them. In my effort to improve them since the last time I had them in the show room, 1898, I have done as follows: One of George W. Mitchell's best males from his pullet breeding line was mated with two Bantam hens, and as the result of a whole season's work three chicks were hatched. Two of them died, and one, a beautiful colored cockerel, survived and lived to a serviceable age. This has been patiently mixed into the Bantam blood, and the result of four years' work does not warrant us in saying it is complete.

Size is the hardest thing to have correct, for by the time you have got back to Bantam size you have left only a small per cent of the original cross, the influence of which we should like to maintain for the sake of color. The zigzag back and forth has influenced better color into both males and females, and the promise is for still better in the near future. Those who profit by this result when the time for distribution comes will scarcely know of the hours and years of close attention that have been given to these and to the Dark Brahma Bantams to have them what they are. For what they are at this time in America is due to the labor bestowed upon them for years by the writer and his co-workers.

It should be borne in mind that feathers marked and colored like those of a Brown Leghorn are not proper colors and markings for a Partridge Cochin Bantam. We show by illustration a feather from a Partridge Cochin Bantam female, a pullet of great promise that ended her days in an attempt to be free of an egg that was rather large—which is another trouble that comes from these large top crosses. It often increases the size of the egg more in proportion than it does the size of the pullet, and when this is the case trouble generally follows. Many are the trials of those who labor to make a new or improve upon a variety that is partly made; but the joy that comes with improvement often repays for years of trouble and care. If success comes as the reward of the labor given to these two penciled Bantams, we shall feel fully repaid.

COCHIN BANTAMS IN ENGLAND—BLACKS, WHITES AND CUCKOOS

(By a Noted English Breeder.)

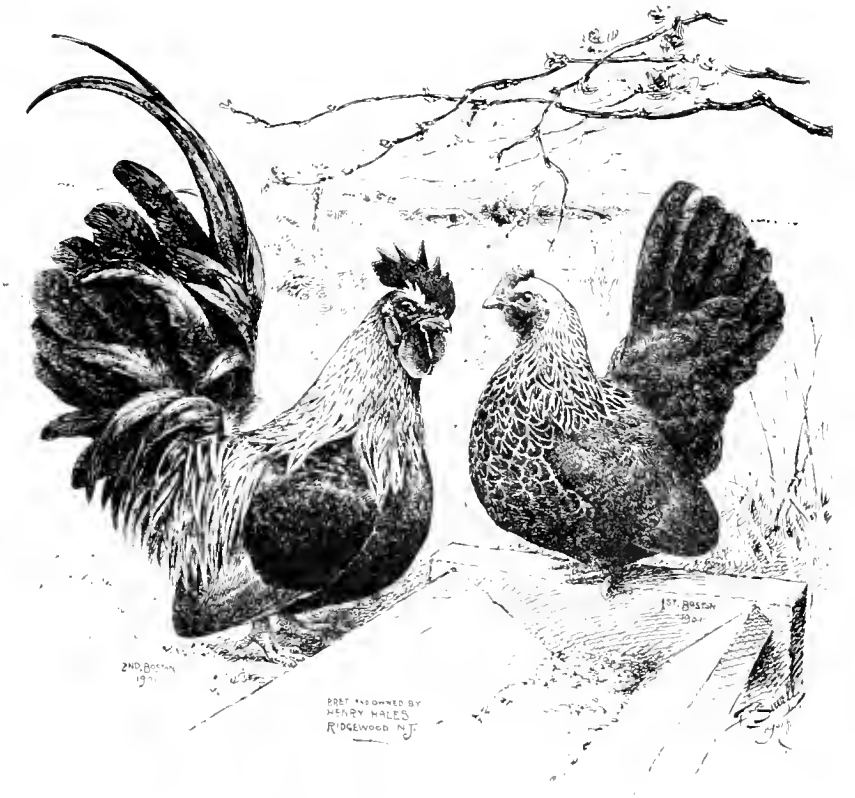
"Black Cochins should be the same as Buffs in comb, face, eyes and legs. The plumage should be a lustrous beetle-green, as seen in the Black Hamburg, although it is hardly possible to obtain the same sheen as in Hamburgs, but the more lustre the better, as color in Blacks is a very important

point. The fluff or under-color should also be black to the skin, not grey, which is often found in blacks, although birds with sound black fluff are few and far between, still, if bred pure and not allowed to cross with the Whites, they can be bred sound in fluff; it is the crossing with Whites to strengthen the strain and obtain the length of feather that is the cause of grey in under-color and hackle, which we frequently find in Blacks. To breed Blacks, although it is quite possible to breed exhibition specimens of both sexes from one pen, I should advise, where practicable, to mate up a cockerel-breeding pen separate from the pullet pen. In the cock pen I should select the shortest backed bird I could find, one possessing plenty of feather on shanks and around the hocks and carried out to the end of the center toe. I should like him low on the leg, excelling in lustre and free from white or grey in under-color and foot feather. The male bird in the pullet pen should be descended from a pullet breeding strain. A good guide in the selection of cockerel for pullet breeding, is to notice if he possesses, more or less, a tinge of red in the saddle and neck. If this is found, you can mate him up with confidence that he will produce the glossy sheen in the pullets, but the hens in both pens should be free from any foreign color and as shapely as possible, discarding those grey or white in fluff or white in lobe.

White Pekins have found many admirers during the past few years, and are making steady progress. When kept under favorable circumstances, i. e., shaded by covered runs, or kept in small woods or orchards from the sun's rays—White Pekins are a very pretty variety to keep, but should never be attempted where the only accommodation is a back yard. To be successful with Whites they must have grass and a run with covered top and a portion of the sides and front, whilst the floor of the house should have fine sea-sand, to the depth of three or four inches, to protect the foot-feather and keep it clean. Whites are easy to breed true to color by keeping them pure and inbreeding, but should your chicks come weakly through too much inbreeding then the best plan would be to introduce a sound colored Black cock and mate him to the White hens. From these you would get both Blacks and Whites; the former would be more or less grey in under-color, and show perhaps a little white in foot feather, which, as a rule, disappears before the bird is exhibited; the Whites will be found very pure in color, although perhaps not quite so rich a yellow in leg color, but the produce will be found stronger than the previous year, and more feathers will have been obtained as well. It would not be wise to breed from the Blacks produced in this way, even should they be perfectly sound in color.

Cuckoo Pekins are a much later addition to the fancy than Blacks or Whites, and do not appear to be making any headway at all. Doubtless this is greatly due to the difficulties of producing them true to color. It is very rarely we find a single first-class exhibition specimen at any of the provincial shows. In markings they should be similar to the Scotch Grey Bantam, the ground color should be a very pale blue, with dark (almost black) bars; the more clearly defined in barring (as in Plymouth Rocks) the better. Like the Scotch Grey and Plymouth Rock, the ground color varies considerably, but the color should be as uniform as possible, and the barring fine and distinct; and not only should the top feather be barred, but the under-color and foot feather as well. This is very important when mating up the bird for breeding purposes. I have seen perfect top-colored birds entirely devoid of fluff baring; but these are not the birds that should be selected for the breeding pen, and, again, never select birds that show any great amount of white in tail or flights. This is a great weakness in all barred varieties, and should be strictly guarded against.

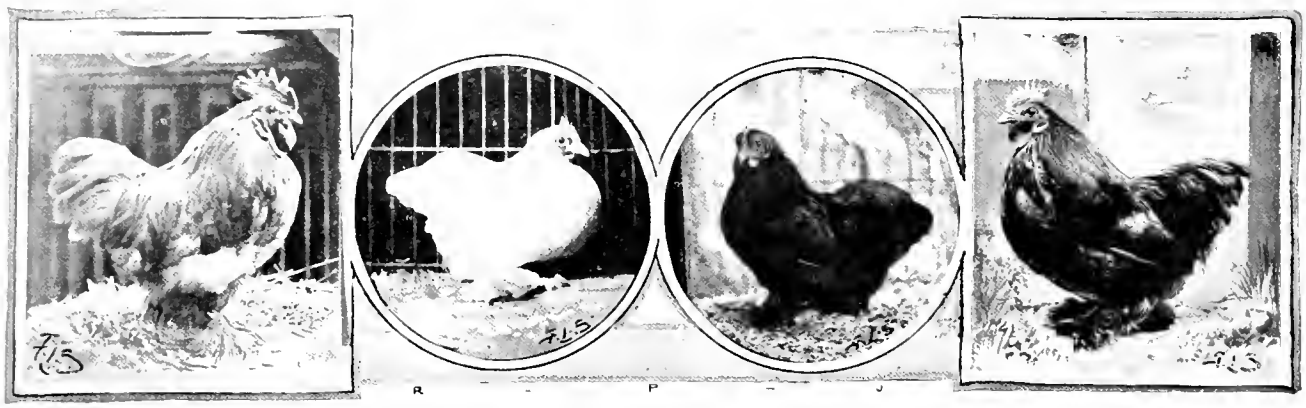
In mating up the breeding pens, it would be as well to use two pens. For the cockerel breeding pen, select a very uniform colored bird of the medium shade. See that his tail and sickle feathers are well barred down to the root, and that his flights when opened out are sound and free from white. With him mate up three hens or pullets of a nice level color and clear in ground color. In the pullet pen I



A PAIR OF JAPANESE BANTAMS, BRED BY HENRY HALES.

should use a darker shade of color in the cock, but not brassy on top. This is a serious fault. See that his breast is clear and fine in markings, not blurred or indistinct; a little dark on tail is no objection, but he must show no trace of white either in tail or wing. By mating him to three or four distinctly barred hens, nice and clear in ground color, and especially sound in the black of the barring, you should be rewarded by a good percentage of exhibition pullets, and the cockerels the following year will be found useful if mated back to the hens again as well as breeding cockerels and pullets together. By doing this you will have two strings to your bow as it were. Should any of the pullets come black, by mating these to a finely barred cockerel of the lighter shade you would in all probability breed the very best of cuckoo pullets, and pullets bred in this manner are very useful as future pullet breeders.

Shape of course is of the greatest importance and the chief difficulty lies in getting shapely birds that are at the same time diminutive. Persistency, however, will overcome such difficulties in this breed as in all others.



A GROUP OF COCHIN BANTAMS.
Buff Cock 1st at Boston owned by Dr. Wm. Y. Fox; White Hen the property of the same owner; Black Hen owned by Baldwin Bros., and Partridge Cockerel 1st at Boston.

CUCKOO COCHIN BANTAMS

Cuckoo Cochin Bantams are of late production, starting from sports of Blacks, Buffs and Whites bred together and strengthened by birds of the Cuckoo color imported from China. We give you a description of them as written by Mr. Entwisle, the greatest breeder of Bantams in England. He said:

"Cuckoo Cochin Bantams should have very sound orange yellow legs, and orange beaks are generally preferred, though personally we do not dislike a little dark marking on the beak of a Cnkoo Cochin Bantam, as it seems quite in harmony with the feathering. And now we must try to describe the color and markings of the Cuckoos. These points vary very considerably from a pale, almost white ground, with cloudy and indistinct markings, to a beautiful, soft French grey ground, with dark slate bars. The more clearly defined and the finer the markings the better. Not only does the ground color vary, as well as the color of the bars or markings of the feathers, but also in different birds the pattern of the markings varies considerably. There are Cuckoos shown with the same pattern of markings as the Dark Brahmas and Partridge Cochins—concentric circles of penciling, one with the other, i. e., in the hen—but this is not correct. The markings we require in Cuckoo Cochin Bantams are a series of clearly defined bars (we prefer narrow ones) across each feather, from the head down the hackle, breast, thighs, wings, back, saddle and tail, and, in fact, each feather throughout the whole bird, both cock and hen, must have this distinct barring, or series of bands, across the feathers. In some birds we have counted nine bars across the hackle or saddle feather of a cockerel, but seven bars make the feather look well. A less number would not be so good. In hens, across the saddle feathers, five bars are sufficient, and as feathers on other parts of the body are not so long, a proportionately less number of bars is required. The same description of markings is required on the feathering of the legs, feet and toes, and the more distinct the better.

"A common failing of Cuckoos is to have some of the wing feathers white, or with a good deal of white in them, and also in the tail feathers. This is a grave fault, and is reproduced in the chickens most persistently. If the fault is seen in the brood cock, it will not do to run hens with him having the same fault. If the cock bird is perfectly sound in color, less anxiety need be felt about a little white in the hens' flight feathers. Never breed from any—either cocks or hens—that are broad, coarse or irregular in their markings."

Since the above was written I have bred some very good Cuckoo Cochin Bantams from a cross between solid Whites and Blacks crossed in with some very poor Cuckoos. These Cuckoos had by far the best color in the males, many of the females coming too dark—some clear black. One female from the Cuckoos came pure black, and has since won prizes in a number of shows. We cannot encourage the breeding of this variety, for they will never become popular because they breed so untrue. This same fault is mentioned by the English writer whom we quote above.

Cuckoo Cochin Bantams should be the same in shape as are other Cochin Bantams, and have the color and barring the same as our Barred Plymouth Rocks. The English call it the Cuckoo coloring, we call it Dominique color. If we might have these Bantams of the same rich color and barring as is seen on some of the best Plymouth Rocks, they would be both beautiful and attractive; but so far the obtaining of such color with them has outwitted all who have tried to produce it. From some unknown cause they seem to grow darker in color every day, and some of them show considerable red in plumage. Just why this should be we cannot say.

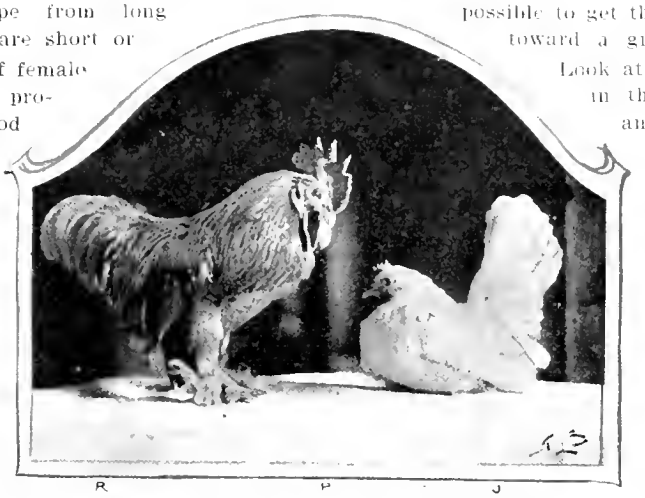
MATING COCHIN BANTAMS.

The profitable breeding of Cochin Bantams depends upon the quality that may be produced. Poor quality that may be sold at low prices is far from profitable; and to produce the best quality is a study for the fancier, and almost beyond the reach of the amateur, unless he has the advantage of the knowledge and experience of others.

The most profitable of all are the Cochin Bantams—and the Buffs hold the lead in these. More Buff Cochin Bantams are produced each year we presume than of any other, if not all other kinds; and but few of these are high class. It is astonishing how very inferior some of them are—even among the entries at our larger shows. In fact, at times we wonder why the entrance fee is paid on some that are shown. This should not be, for any one who knows a Cochin Bantam by sight, knows that it should be true Cochin in shape, and golden buff in color. When neither of these demands are present in the specimens shown, they should be cast aside as not competent to compete in the classes they are shown in. If this might be, the chances are, we would soon have better quality in the show room at least. To aid those who may be interested in having high quality Cochin Bantams we shall give in one the combined experience of our best producers of the Cochin Bantams as their guide to success.

The mating for shape is the same in all varieties, and of vital importance. More by far depends upon the female than is usually accredited to her. Never can you hope to gain the

most desirable Cochin shape from long backed, narrow females that are short or close in feather. This style of female may as well be discarded as a producer, for it will not give good returns, no matter how it may be mated. Turn to our illustration, "Rear View of Males and Females," and note the width of feather, the spread of tail cushion, and fluff. All this must be present in the strongest degree in the females from which we hope to obtain true Cochin shape. Long backs, necks, tails and legs do not belong to the Cochin Bantam; and close or short feather must not be considered.



BUFF COCHIN BANTAM COCK AND WHITE JAPANESE HEN.
First Prize Winners at Hackensack Bantam Show

The proper females for producing good form are the short compact built hens that have very long profuse feathering all over. Cushion, fluff and thigh plumage must be long and profuse with no stiff feathers at hock. All must be long and soft, and the fluffy portion of feather, full and open. Our illustration of feather shows how full and downy the under portion of feathers must be to build out the cushion and fluff. This fulsome feather formation is what is needed to build out the rotund form of the Cochin Bantam.

After shape comes size. Do not select the very smallest looking females for breeders, for often they are very close feathered, which makes them look smaller than they really are; and some of which may appear to be larger will show less size if the scales are used. It is best to use this test for size: First, all the feathers you can have within the weight limit, small in appearance with all the feathers possible, but never so small as not to have strength and vigor. Vitality is all important in breeding Bantams.

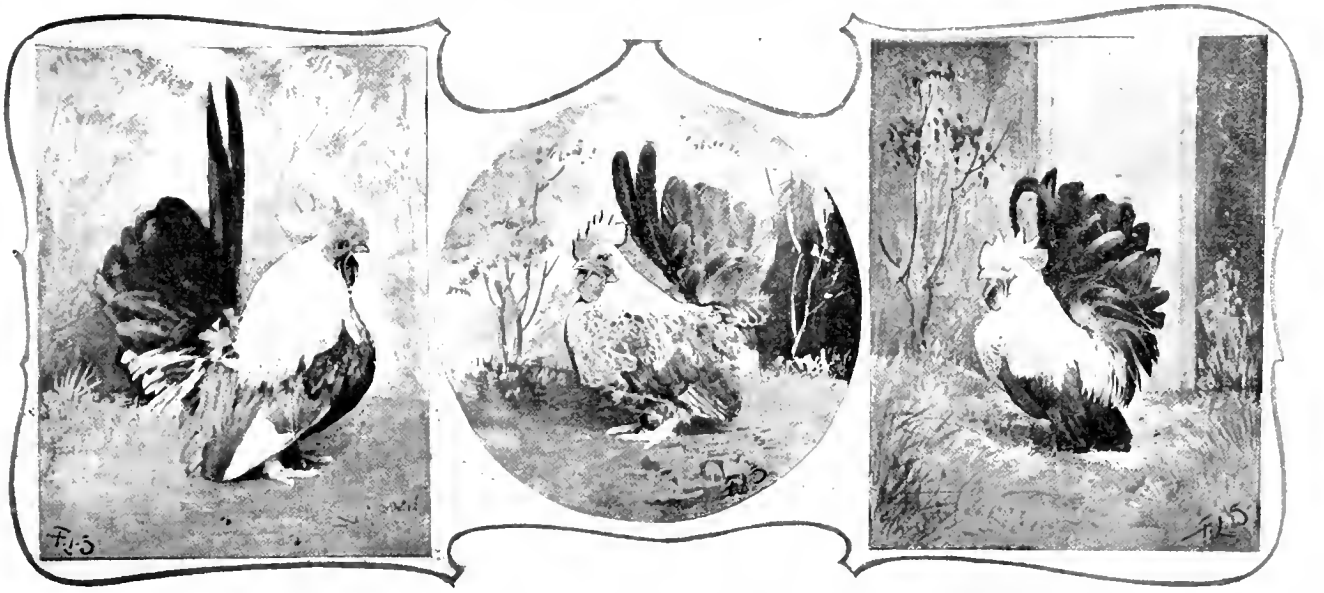
In selecting the male, have all the Cochin type, shape and qualities which it is possible to obtain, also as little size as can be had, and with such qualities, comb and all head points, including eyes, are of great consideration in both male and female. Have them as close to perfection as it is possible to get them, for all these things count toward a great future for the offspring. Look at the side view of Cochin male in the former pages on "Cochins and Bantams" and you will see just what you should have for a breeder. Note the beautiful shaped head and head points, small size and plenty of feather.

The best rule for color is to have in your breeding stock the identical color that you desire to produce — pure golden buff for this variety, and the purest white for the production of spotless white, and rich glossy black with the beautiful sheen for the Blacks. If these rules are observed color will come better and better each year. But as soon as you have poor or undesirable color in your breeding stock, you are certain to produce undesirable color in your young stock. This is just as certain as that night will follow day; and no one has or will be able to get away from such results. The same is true of the Partridge colored variety. You must have good color, good markings, and line breeding, to succeed with them, just as you must have to produce good Dark Brahma Bantams. Pencilled plumage can only be obtained and maintained by close line breeding of the best to be obtained.

CARE OF COCHIN BANTAMS

Mr. T. F. McGrew:

When the breeding season commences, move pens entirely away from the winter quarters. For houses use a common store box, make a slanting top, and cover all over with tar paper. Make south side a wire door. Runs should be covered with grass or sand and must have plenty of shade. If runs are large a good feed of wheat at night is a plenty; if small, some oats in morning and wheat at night should be given, with green bone three times a week and a trifle of corn once a week for a change. Do not let them get



GRAY JAPANESE COCK

Of stock imported by T. A. Havemeyer from O. E. Cresswell of England. This cock is sire of the other bird which appears as cockerel and as cock in this plate.

GRAY JAPANESE COCKEREL.

Owned by T. A. Havemeyer. This frizzy little fellow developed into the beautiful cock shown on the right

GRAY JAPANESE COCK.

Winner at Boston and New York, 1900. A charming type of the rare Birchen Gray that possesses black secondaries, laced breast and tail coverts.

too fat. Incubators and brooders should not be used except where large numbers are raised. In early spring set hens in a warm, dry house by themselves. Make nests at least a foot off the ground. Later make nests on the ground. Be careful about sudden changes of food or weather, or bowel trouble will surely follow. When chicks hatch move the brood to a warm, dry shed with a sand floor. Sand should be changed two or three times a season. Keep the hens in coops, but let the chicks run in the shed. The first week I feed thoroughly cooked rice. Give fresh water three times a day and a nice green piece of sod each morning. After a week feed cracked corn, millet and rolled oats, a little green bone once a week, but not much as it causes bowel trouble. If chicks get dysentery or bowel trouble feed nothing but cracker crumbs and cut green catnip. There is nothing better than catnip to check the bowels. Wean when six weeks old and place in a shady run by themselves and feed wheat and corn, gradually reducing the food to two light meals a day.

Separate the sexes the first week in September, and October first move back to the winter quarters, which have previously been thoroughly cleaned and the runs sown in

WHITE COCHIN BANTAM—NABOB BANTAM YARDS

wheat or rye. A large well ventilated house is the thing for Bantams. Do not use a low, dark house.

In winter I feed wheat in the morning, millet and cut clover at noon, cracked corn at night and green bone twice a week. I find a hot mash for Cochins or Cochin Bantams is not best in cold weather. They will eat it heartily, but after the temporary effects of the heated mash wear off they stand around and shiver and take cold easily. Commence in the morning and make them scratch all day. They will lay better and keep healthier. When Bantams are molting increase food and give a small quantity of flax seed and yellow mustard seed once a week. Do not fail to have a well filled dust box in each house the year through, and in summer spade up a place in the runs. Let them play in the dirt, that is, nice, fresh soil, not filth. It will help to keep them free from lice and their plumage in better shape.

To see what lice can do, I took two green legged chicks from a brood ten days old, that were apparently hearty and well. On the throat of one I placed three gray lice, and on the other, four. In two days the latter died, and in a little over three days the first one died. They were subjected to the same care and treatment as the rest of the brood, which have all lived. So you see too much stress cannot be put on the lice question, especially with reference to Bantams. I prefer vaseline to any other grease for head lice, but prefer to use none if it can be avoided. Coal oil or lard kills chicks as well as the lice in a great many cases. Powdered moth balls, one part; snuff, two parts; insect powder, four parts, make the best insect powder I ever used. Two or three moth balls placed in the nest with the eggs will keep both hen and chicks, when hatched, free from lice. It is fine.

As to mating, I mate with these objects in view:

First, shape; second, color; third, size. Or first, a Cochin; second, a Buff Cochin; third, a Buff Cochin Bantam.

In the male I want as light surface as possible, but must have a sound under-color, and I depend on him for comb, color and carriage. In the female I want a deep color (not brown), very good shape and feathering. Too much care cannot be used in selecting the male. This is contrary to nature, and red will crop out strong in wing-bows of cockerels for a few seasons. Dark males and light females do not go with me. Do not discard a good shaped or colored Bantam because it is too large; nor breed a delicate, puny one because it is small. You are breeding trouble if you do. I believe it is all bosh about using a male with black in tail because it holds up color. The sooner Buff breeders drop that notion the quicker black will disappear in wings and tail. (The tail does not wag the bird.) Do not breed a green legged bird for a farm in Texas; white is bad enough. What we need, and need badly, are judges who know something about Bantams. Not one in ten pays any attention to long, straight, dark colored beaks, depressions in front of eyes, lack of depth of keel bone, long flight feathers, lacing of feathers on back of females, etc., and as long as the judges do not the breeders will not. The successful breeder of today is the one who selects a variety best suited for his purpose, studies it carefully, uses an abundance of grit, patience and common sense, adapts himself to his circumstances and surroundings, and sticks as closely as possible to the lines of nature.

CLARENCE HENDERSON.

THE POWER OF COLOR

We have always held to the theory, if you will, that blue or purple barring in black plumaged fowls is an indication of an excess of color pigment in the blood of that particular specimen. The same influence may run throughout an entire flock, where you will also find a tinge of red, as mentioned in a subsequent article by an English writer. The influence of this tinge of red in plumage is for better and richer color in the offspring. Such matings will produce too much color in the males, and it also may give an excess of color in some of the females; at the same time, it is very sure to give some beautiful colored pullets. This comes from the excess of color in the male, and it will be the same, and have equal influence in the matings of all black fowls.

Because of the influence of this excessive strength of color, it is our opinion that the careless mixing of same to gain the rich sheen, so much desired, gives us the purple barring, and we do not believe that the sunlight has much influence for or against this barring. It is rather to be supposed that it is the color influence from one to the other in breeding for the rich color that comes from the use of these over or too richly colored males. Often this purple comes in the plumage of the very richest colored specimens. Seldom is there any sign of it in dull colored specimens.

We know that cream or yellow color in the plumage of a white male may spoil his entire progeny. This we are assured of in all white fowls, and this alone tells us that a weaker shade of color has a strong influence over the offspring, and how much more must the stronger color of red influence the black. This is the same in the buff. When you

BUFF COCHIN BANTAM—NABOB BANTAM YARDS.

make use of a male that has too much of the reddish buff in surface color, or black in wing and tail, you may depend upon having bad color in his chicks. You will have both too much color and unevenness of color as the result of the use of males of any color that have an excess of color. For these reasons, it is always best to select and use at all times and in all breeds the best and truest color that you can obtain.

It is all very well for those who have their stock closely bred in line to make use of these special matings, for they are able to control its influence; but those who go into the manner of mating for color often destroy their whole line of birds, as well as injure others who may have stock from such matings. The greatest and surest improvement comes from the use of the true color at all times. In handling the parti-colors, such as the Dark Brahma, Partridge Cochin and Cuckoo Bantams, you must be able to properly mate these colors for best results. In the handling of these you must follow the same rules which have proved successful in obtaining fine color in our Dark Brahmas, Partridge Cochins and Barred Plymouth Rocks.

The male has the greater influence at all times over the offspring in both color and finish. If this is always considered in mating fowls better results will follow. The female influences size more than does the male. This is the cause of the largest Cochins coming from the largest Cochin hens, and the smallest Bantams from the smallest Bantam hens. If you can mate a Standard male of any breed or variety to a small Bantam hen of the same, you will reduce size in one-half the time that it would take by mating the Bantam male to a Standard size hen of the same. A small Bantam female will lay a small egg and produce a small chick, no matter how large the male may be, and you may depend upon having the size reduced, at least, one-half with every cross. But with the larger female the process is slower. Do not be satisfied with mating birds that may possibly breed good ones; mate those that in your opinion will surely do so. If you would be at the front you can take no chances; you cannot afford to lose a year in experiments. Conduct your experiments if you will, but while so doing see that a sure and safe mating also has been made; then there will be no time lost. With this as your guide for color and size, you should succeed in having better and better all the time.

THE PLEASURE OF BREEDING BANTAMS

A Well-known Breeder Relates a Number of Truths that will Appeal to the True Fancier and Tells of the Pleasure and Profit that Comes to Him who has his Heart in the Work.

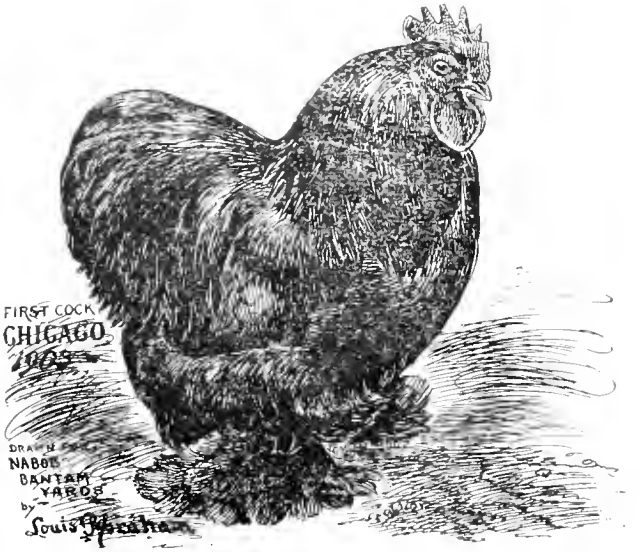
BY J. C. JACKS, WINONA, MINN.

[Written for the Reliable Poultry Journal.]

We so often find the old adage, "There are two sides to every story," a very true one, and I think one that should present itself to the writer on nearly all topics in the poultry field. While we read every article in our monthly Journals with much pleasure, yet as a whole breeding "only Bantams" as we do, we practice very little of the many pages of good advice. For instance, they tell us to be sure and hatch early that the chicks may be large and well developed by early fall. We hatch late that they may not grow quite so large. They tell us free range for the growing chicks, yet although we have ten acres at our disposal, we find the best Bantams we have ever raised have been those that were never out of a portable wire run four by eight feet in size from the day they were born until they faced the judge. The Journals give good advice, and lots of it, as to how to get eggs in winter (when eggs are high). Bantam eggs are not high in winter and we do not want them then, and do not let the birds lay until the last of April or the first of May.

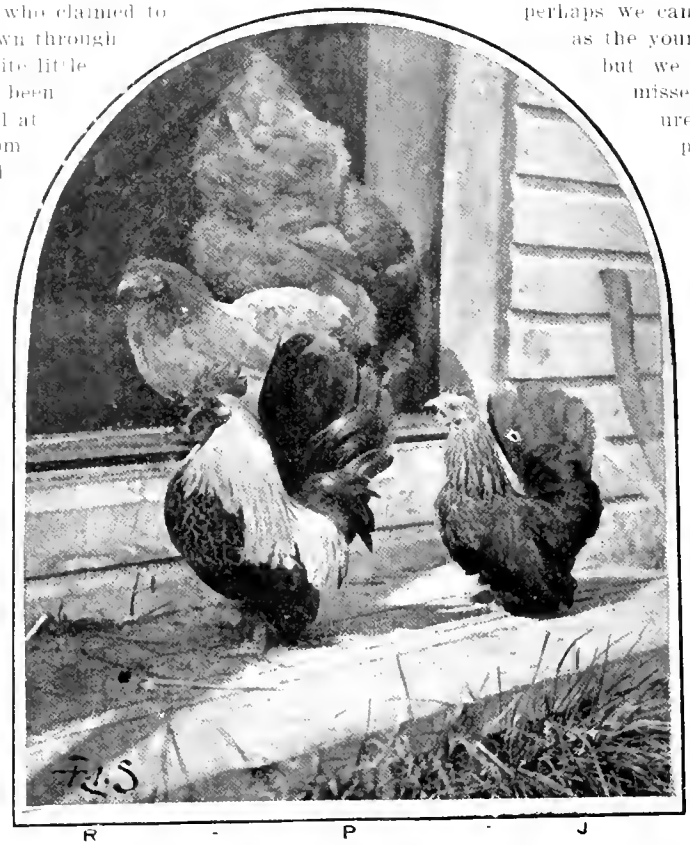
"But," you say, "you cannot prevent a hen laying;" and we admit it was quite a study, but we have solved the problem to our own satisfaction and in a later article we will be glad to give you our method.

To me the breeding of Bantams does not differ materially from any other business or profession. To make a success one must be in love with the work and I pity the man who is in the business simply for the money that is in it. Of course we are all after the dollar, which is perfectly right as long as we can get it in a legitimate way; but it is so much nicer when we love our work; then it becomes a pleasure instead of all labor. If you do not love your Bantams my best advice is to get rid of them. If you do not enjoy every minute you can spare with them; if you cannot provide plenty of good food, careful treatment at all times, and good comfortable houses in winter, give them up. But we ask, what can give one gerater pleasure than to properly feed and care for these aristocratic little chaps as you would a valuable horse or cow and watch them respond? Yet we have seen flocks of Bantams so fearfully neglected that they could have no possible excuse to call their owner blessed. I visited a



BLACK COCHIN BANTAM—NABOB BANTAM YARDS.

breeder - yards last summer who claimed to be a fancier. As we were shown through his pens, we came to a favorite little hen that was ill. As she had been a prize winner and purchased at a good price the owner from pity (?) picked her up, placed her in a box and carried her to the house for treatment. Further on we came across a poor little cockerel in a pen by himself, so sick the miserable little chap was nearly dead. We suggested that he also needed treatment, but our host said: "Oh, he don't amount to anything and is not worth the bother." My friends! I claim this man is no fancier. His heart is not in his work; he does not love his pets! He was willing to bother with the little hen simply because she was valuable and represented a few of his dollars; but in a very different way he passed the little cockerel and left him to suffer. This same breeder told us there was no money in Bantams and we don't believe there ever will be any in it for him.



BIRCHEN GRAY JAPANESE COCK AND HEN

The latter winner of 1st at Boston as pullet in 1901. 1st and special at Boston, 1902.

I well remember once finding a half starved cur dog with a broken leg that some boys were stoning. I took him to my stables, set the leg, and gave the poor fellow the same care and treatment I would have one of my thoroughbreds and when he was well found a good home on a farm, and I never begrudged the time spent or figured that it was a bother. So I say, if you would be a fancier, choose your line, but if you find your heart is not with you in your work, give it up.

In asking your consideration for our favorites, the Bantams, we do so feeling that a trial will convince you of the joys and pleasures of a Bantam fancier. A lady once said to us, "Have you seen our baby?" to which we replied we had not. "Then you have missed half your life" came the quick answer. And we believe she really thought so. We ask the reader, have you ever tried Bantams; if not you have missed—well, perhaps we cannot be quite as enthusiastic as the young mother referred to above, but we can frankly say you have missed a great deal of real pleasure. The writer knows of no pastime (and he has tried a great many) that equals that of the Bantam fancy, and it comes so nicely to the busy man or woman who has but a few spare hours each day to devote to pleasure and pets. Bantams eat but little and require but little room to make them happy and to become a source of genuine pleasure and profit. We know of a school boy who cleared $70 in a year with a flock of Bantams confined to a small back yard of a city lot, but this boy loved his pets and you could find him with them morning, noon and night. Everything was in perfect order about the place and we do not believe the $70 was the goal he was aiming at.

In some of the best sales we have ever made we have sent the birds away with a feeling of regret, as we felt we were parting with old and true friends.

We have one hundred fruit trees, and berry bushes galore on our ten acres where we raise our Bantams, but I do not expect ever to make much of a success with the fruit, as my heart is not in the work. Still the trees furnish fine shade for the Bantams and that is the chief object of their

J. C. JACKS

BLACK JAPANESE BANTAM COCK.

Winner at Boston and New York. An extra ordinarily good specimen

JAPANESE BANTAMS

BY F. J. LATHAM, SECRETARY NATIONAL BANTAM ASSOCIATION.

At his home, time is not considered by the Japanese when producing or improving a plant or flower. Consider the patience and time consumed to produce the many varieties of form and color in chrysanthemums. We can today surpass them in fine colors and forms, but this is only our ability to make use of the productions of others, aided, as we are, by well equipped hot houses and conditions most favorable. In trees they have dwarfed the most stately and

A BIRCHEN GRAY JAPANESE COCKEREL.

2d at Boston, 1901. Owned by Henry Hales.

beautiful into miniature form, some with long flowing leaves, others with waxen texture and bright glowing colors. These are engrafted into one another until the product is a beautiful little toy tree with many kinds and colors of leaves. Even in the production of fruit trees they succeed in getting wonderful results.

A friend, who spent years of his life in their country, tells me that they take young fowls and animals and confine them in boxes made to suit their purpose, and of different forms to meet the form of their specimen. These are confined in the ill-shaped boxes until they mature and their bodies grow to the shape of the inside of the box. No consideration of time and trouble affects them just so they can accomplish the object in view and surpass a neighbor in the work. Think of a square shaped chicken or pig, or a squirrel or rabbit with a hump like a camel! These same efforts produced the fowls with the very long tails, many of which are little larger than our Bantams. To produce these curious freaks must take an extent of confinement on one hand and so close inbreeding on the other that they must possess some wonderful secret of infusing vigor into their specimens unknown to us.

A CLEAR COLORED BIRCHEN GRAY JAPANESE PULLET.

Bred from the pair that appears on page 36.

Some thirty-five years ago the first fowls known as Japanese Bantams came to England. The early specimens were of cuckoo marking, others variously marked and speckled, but the most attractive were what we now call Black Tailed Japanese Bantams. No mention is made of the white edge on the sickle feathers of those early importations. We should presume from all information at hand that this was not prominent enough to cause any mention of same. In addition to the above mentioned varieties, some came frizzled feathered.

The Black Tailed Japanese are described as follows, by an early writer: "The cock has good carriage, short clear yellow legs, drooping wings with black flights, body white, tail erect with long black sickle feathers showing white shaft, comb large and upright, moderate serrations, wattles long and red. The hen should have a very short yellow leg, drooped wings, black flights, white body, tail large, erect and fan shaped, the hen's comb crinkled." Another description tells us there is another variety of White Japanese Bantams in which the cock's tail flows in a sweeping semi-circle. In perfect specimens the center of these feathers is of the deepest glossy black, finely edged or laced with white like the tail of a Silver Penciled Hamburg. The latter description was recorded about ten years after the first, showing that at this later date the edged tail was noticed. To-day we have the preference for dark slate or black primaries, edged with white. The English standard calls for a black inner web for the wing primaries and secondaries. Both now call for white edge on tail in both sickle and coverts. The English also admit the following varieties at the present time: Black Tailed White, Black, White, Speckled, Buff, Gray, Brown and Cuckoo.

We present herewith for consideration the description of a pair shown at the Palace Show, as described by an expert: "Cock, snowy white in feathers of neck, breast, thighs, body and wings, with a black tail; each sickle evenly edged with white; his legs and bill as yellow as an orange; comb, lobes and face as red as blood; when his wings are open they show the black in the underneath feathers of flights and coverts, but the upper and outer surfaces are white. The hen is colored just like the cockerel and her shape is like his." Why we should prefer the dark slate color for primary markings can hardly be told. Why should slate colored wing markings be preferred in these when it is not allowed in Light Brahmas, both being white with black markings? The comb of a Japanese is quite prominent and beautiful, usually fine in form and well serrated. The face, ear-lobes and wattles are quite uniform and handsome. A well formed Japanese female is a very quaint looking bird, the short legs, drooped wings and long tail being so very different from any other fowl, and when they move about they look almost as if they were sliding along.

No variety of fowls breeds more true than they, their main fault being loss of color in the black feathers and defective lacing. To my notion the most attractive of all Japanese is the pure black. This color seems to fit their size and form better than the white with black tails. They are also to be had in solid white, buff, gray and brown of various shades. The most popular varieties are the Black Tailed Whites, pure Black and pure Whites.

The first importation of Black Tailed Whites into this country were quite oversized birds in comparison with those we now have. The first importation of real quality in Japanese Bantams, we believe, should be credited to Mr. J. D. Nevius, of Philadelphia, who has at different times had large consignments of Black Tailed Whites, pure Black, White and Grays of superior quality. The first really fine specimens seen by the writer were in his yards.

A GROUP OF JAPANESE BANTAMS.

The little White Pullet to the left was the result of a cross of a Gray Japanese Male with a Buff Cochin Bantam Hen, illustrating a reversion to the Black Tailed White Japanese.

Black Tailed Whites are the best known with us. To breed them to perfection is quite an art. The proper coloring of body, wings and tail must be closely watched to prevent them fading or encroaching upon forbidden ground. The rich yellow color of

beak, legs and toes; the bright red face, comb and wattles; pure white plumage of entire body; wings partly black; and black tails, the sickles and coverts of same edged with white, make a beautiful combination for the breeder's skill to work into greater perfection. Their long overbalancing tails and full plumage with their form and carriage of body give them an appearance unlike any other fowl. A slight description of their general form will represent them all as to shape.

BLACK TAILED JAPANESE BANTAM,
Owned by A. A. Fenn

The face of a Japanese Bantam should be full and round from a side view; eyes large and bright; comb rather large, strong and well serrated; neck short, curving backward over the body, almost touching the tail; back short; breast round and full with a forward carriage; body short and plump; wings long and drooping; the tail of the male long and full, carried upright and forward almost touching his head; the tail of the female should be carried nearly upright, a drooping or hanging to either side is quite a serious defect; legs very short and free from feathers, the shorter the shank the better, just so the body is carried free from the ground.

The Black Tailed variety should be a very clear white, all except wings and tail. The primaries should be black, edged with white. The secondaries, our standard tells us, should be dark slate, edged with white on the upper web, lower web white. We much prefer the black in wing of both male and female, tail of both black. In the male the sickles and coverts are edged all around with white. The tail coverts of female same as body color. If of fine form and carriage and pure white with black markings, this is a beautiful Bantam.

The Black Japanese Bantam should be a pure black, if of a greenish luster so much the more beautiful. Beaks, legs and toes in all Japanese Bantams should be yellow, but in Blacks they are apt to shade into a dark color. This is allowable, and is often seen on the richest colored specimens. The Whites should be pure white. The Grays, very dark or black in body color; the male marked in neck, back and wings much like a Silver Dorking; the female laced all over with the same silvery color. Such well marked specimens are very scarce. Usually the markings of both male and female are very deficient. A few Buff Japanese were shown at New York in 1897. They are very scarce and not fully developed as a distinct variety.

In breeding these Bantams the most perfect specimens obtainable should be bred together, not more than two or three females to each male. The young chicks must be very tenderly handled until six or eight weeks old. After reaching this age they are quite hardy and will care for themselves if properly fed and housed in dry quarters at night. Long grass makes a bad run for them when damp, as they are quite sensitive to wet and damp surroundings. Being so close to the ground their body feathers get wet and produce disease.

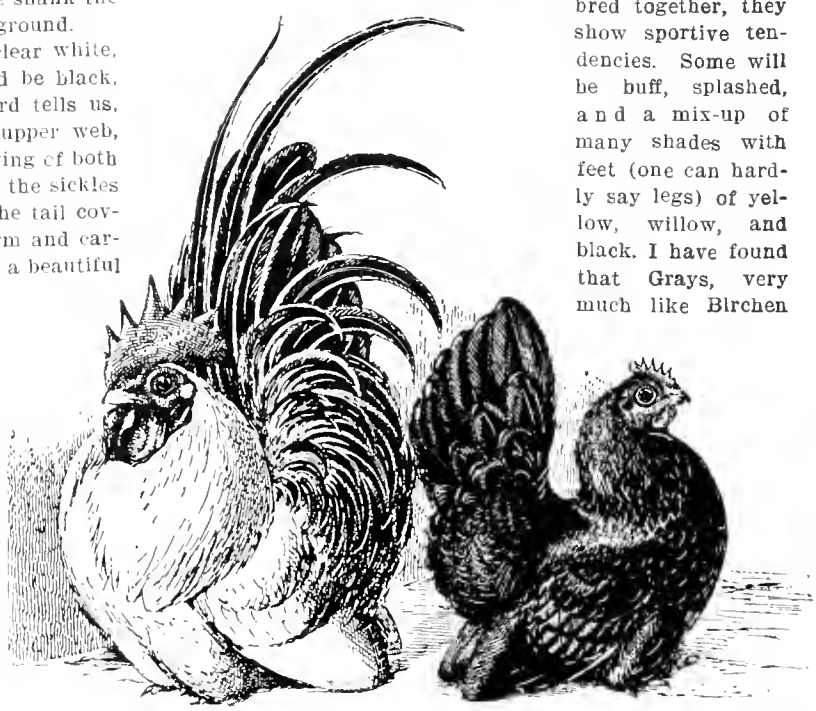
FRIZZLED BANTAMS.

Frizzled Bantams of the Japanese type are quite like them in form. Some contend that they are of English origin, while others tell us they came from Japan. Their general appearance would indicate their close relationship. They look quite like the Japanese in shape and color. The plumage of the whole body turns a reversed way. We will treat more fully of them in our next chapter.

JAPANESE BANTAMS.

BY HENRY HALES, RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

The artistic genius of the Japanese so apparent in art, is readily seen in his working with nature. In poultry especially, extraordinary patience in selection and breeding have produced some remarkable novelties in form and feather. One of the most notable productions is the unique little breed of Bantams called Japanese Bantams. What an oddity! Its short legs hardly keep its wings off the ground; its short body is almost covered by the hackle of neck; its very large pointed flowing tail, almost if not quite touches its saucy little head that is crowned with a neat little comb over a pair of bright full eyes. These features added to the quaint coloring of plumage make the Japanese Bantam objects of peculiar interest to lovers of the beautiful in the nature. In colors there are solid whites and solid blacks. Then we have the oddity of white with black tails, a peculiarity not found in any other breed of poultry; I have bred them also with clear black and white patches, something like a piece of quilt work. When several colors are bred together, they show sportive tendencies. Some will be buff, splashed, and a mix-up of many shades with feet (one can hardly say legs) of yellow, willow, and black. I have found that Grays, very much like Birchen Game colors, can be bred true; others of a golden color in cocks, having either black or laced breasts; the hens a dull black with yellow in hackles. One may see in Japanese paintings these Bantams in a variety of colors, and I have found in breeding with mixed colors there is a great variety of rich colors—solid buff with feathered legs, all shades of browns, reds, and pencillings were represented.



BLACK TAILED AND BLACK JAPANESE BANTAMS.

I think there is a little doubt that these colors could be bred in line; it would be a wide field for fanciers to work on, as the Japanese, like other Asiatics, spend more energy on the forms and size than on markings. This has given the opportunity to our modern fanciers to put the master touch in coloring.

I have found these birds good layers and fairly prolific. I hope the time is near when greater interest will bring out more beautiful varieties of these diminutive pets.

HENRY HALES.

FRIZZLED AND RUMPLESS BANTAMS

In the chapter on Japanese fowls mention was made of the Frizzled as being of the same variety. In giving the information about these breeds, it is not my intention to claim all the statements as my own, for the reason that much of this information is gathered from books and recorded for your information. It is my wish to state here that the information thus gathered is put into this form without any reference to its origin.

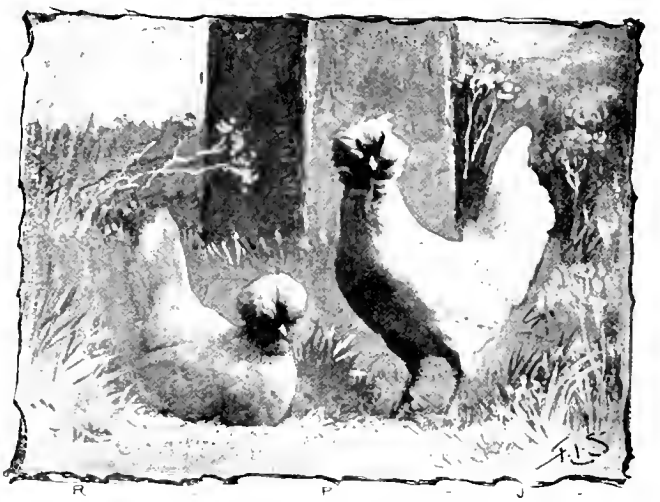
The Frizzle is one of the oldest known breeds. Naturalists made mention of this and the Rumpless about three hundred years ago. On one point the early writers agree—that the Frizzled is a native of Southern Asia; also to be found in Java, Sumatra and the Philippine Islands. The prevailing color of the wild race is white, with smooth legs. Some specimens were found of various colors and feathered legs, indicating the presence of the same blood that produced our Brahmas and Cochins. These facts would indicate an interchange of fowls at that early day between the inhabitants of the older nations of the earth. If the fowls of China found their way to the natives of the above named countries, why not the same interchange of fowls with Japan, thus giving them the blood to produce the Frizzled Japanese Bantams?

The Rumpless, called in early times the Rumpkin, is properly called "Choci-Kukullo," which translated is "Cochin Fowl." Some writers claim it as a native of Persia. Aldrovandus spoke of this variety as the Persian fowl, while others positively state that it first came from Cochin, and their natural color was black. Some white ones were also seen. These facts show that both these fowls originally came from the same region of the country, that their original color was black or white, with smooth legs, and for the Rumpless rose combs. The Frizzled were very much the same. Now, these facts being so plainly recorded at that early day should be a guide for our standard makers, and if recognized by them at all, color and comb should be very specific and positively described and held to, and not a lot of cross-bred mongrels encouraged into the show room.

Japan has sent us in the last twenty years many odd fowls, showing their ability to produce odd forms, the Frizzled one being the most attractive. Some of our ablest English writers do not admit that these came from Japan, but to my mind their form and carriage point to the Japanese origin. They are bred and shown in many colors, but the preference is given in all cases to Blacks and Whites, the former the more preferred. I copy from an English writer these words: "As to comb we have no great preference, though our choice would be the single comb, but in legs and feet, four toes and clean legs are to be preferred. Of all the Frizzled, Whites seem to be the most charming. These should have yellow legs (often they are willow, sometimes slate), but yellow should have the preference. Next comes the Golden, with yellow or willow legs; the Slate color, with black or slate colored legs, and the Blacks with black legs. In addition to these, we have the Browns, Grays and Blues,—in fact, all kinds of solid and mixed colors known to fowls." These statements show the many different colors of these little frizzled fowls.

Frizzled Bantams are quite small, some of the Palace winners not exceeding one pound in weight. The most valued property is the curl of the feathers, next, the quality of feather; to be perfect they must be hard and wiry. Color is the third consideration. Being a tender fowl they must be protected from all changes of the weather, rain or storms. They are fairly good layers, splendid sitters and mothers, and their chicks are as easily raised as the Japanese.

The Rumpless Bantams, produced, as they were, by Mr. Tegetmeier, seem to my mind to belong to the same chapter with the above. Let me quote the words of others as to them: "They were produced by a cross of a very small Rumpless hen with a crest. She was mated to a White Polish and produced Rumpless Polish Bantams. This same hen mated to a very small Nankin Bantam produced tailless Nankins. The result of these two crosses passed into the hands of others, who continued the work and produced them in many forms and colors; also some with very short, booted legs. Both single and rose combs are seen, but the single is much preferred." These two breeds in their many colors would



A PAIR OF WHITE CRESTED WHITE POLISH BANTAMS

make a study for any number of fanciers, and I hope some enterprising breeder will look into them and add them in perfection to our list of little beauties at our exhibitions.

FRIZZLES IN ENGLAND

We clip the following from the Stock Keeper as to English Frizzles:

Frizzles, notwithstanding the fact that they have been exhibited in England nearly thirty years, have failed "to take on" in the fancy. This is probably on account of the difficulties experienced in rearing the chicks; as the variety has been greatly inbred in order to obtain the type and character so essential in Frizzles, the stamina of the breed has been greatly weakened.

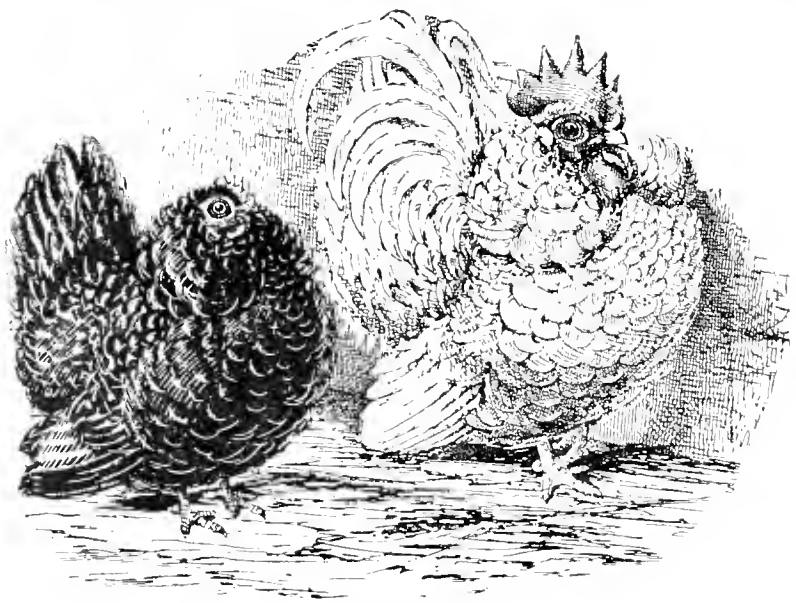
There is great diversity of opinion as to what country this breed originated in. Some say Japan, other Friesland, whilst some ideas of their origin are both too numerous and too funny to enumerate in this article. However, their nationality matters little; they are here, and having been here so many years, are likely to remain, especially seeing that both judges and fanciers are gradually beginning to appreciate their charms.

With such an enthusiastic pioneer of the variety as Mr. G. Reyner, of Thurlstone, near Penistone, who to my knowl-

edge has exhibited them so successfully for the past seven or eight years, and who has ever been ready and willing to guarantee classes for them at the principal shows, there is every prospect of them becoming more popular. Although they have invariably to compete against many varieties, even at such shows as Dairy, Palace and Birmingham, they generally give a good account of themselves, as reference to reports will show.

The most trying time with Frizzle chickens is the period of getting their first feather. At this time they are difficult to rear, but when the ground is dry and sandy successful results can be obtained. Having got their first feathers they will be found quite as hardy as most varieties.

Many persons imagine that curling irons play an important part in preparing Frizzles for exhibition, and in some cases such is the case. I remember once seeing a lady manipulate with the curling iron on a White Frizzle hen for two hours one Sunday night, and although I often heard it said



A PAIR OF FRIZZLES.

that "better the day, better the deed," it was not so in this case, for this exhibit just managed to struggle into fourth place. Then, again, I remember some years ago, either during the Palace or Dairy, the latter I believe, a certain exhibitor had occasion to enter the hair dresser's shop near the show, and on entering was surprised to see a brother fancier, one of the lily white innocent ones, too, holding a wee Frizzle pullet on the back of a chair whilst Mr. Hairdresser was assisting nature to curl the feathers. On this occasion their united labors were rewarded with success.

Frizzles appear at their best on either a warm summer day or a sharp, clear, frosty day, but the slightest fog or rain deprives them of their beautiful curls at once, the same as it does the ladies' curls when not in papers.

This is one great drawback (to the Frizzle I mean) when they have to be sent long journeys in the damp winter months.

Frizzle Bantams throw a large percentage of plain feathered chickens which are utterly useless for exhibition, but are of invaluable service in the breeding pen; in fact really good specimens are rarely produced without them.

The curled hens are excellent mothers and sitters, but the plain feathered ones are not to be depended on in either capacity. This seems strange, but nevertheless it is quite true.

There are several colors of Frizzle Bantams, but the Whites, Blacks and Buffs appear to be most popular; and, in my opinion, the first named are decidedly the prettiest, and breed very true, whereas the other varieties throw a lot of mis-colored ones, especially in wing and tail.

Judges have no easy task at present in making the awards, as there does not appear to be a recognized standard and prizes have in many instances been awarded to the best curled specimen irrespective of type or color. For this reason I herewith give a standard applicable to both cocks and hens.

Comb—Single, bright red, medium in cocks, and very small in hens.

Head—Small, and neat.

Face—Ear-lobes and wattles bright red, and of smooth texture.

Eyes—Bright red and full.

Beak—Short, strong, yellow or horn in Whites and Buffs; dark willow or black for dark varieties.

Neck—Rather short, well arched, and in cock abundantly frilled.

Back—Short and broad.

Wings—Long and drooping.

Breast—Very full and round.

Legs—Very short, and quite free from feathers; yellow in Buffs and Whites; dark willow in dark varieties.

Feet—Four toes, well spread.

Tail—Rather large, very full, but loose, the cock having good sickles and plenty of side hangers.

Plumage—Moderately long, hard, and well curled backward towards the head and very close.

General Shape and Carriage—Compact, erect, active and strutting.

To breed Frizzle Bantams it is advisable have two breeding pens; this is only necessary on account of getting the curl, as one breeding pen if properly mated will produce both good cockerels and pullets.

No. 1 pen should consist of a hard-feathered, well-curled cock, short in back, full in frill and breast, with short legs of the standard color; mate to him two small, well-curled hens and two plain feathered hens or pullets, whose appearance should be as round and as squat as possible.

No. 2 should consist of a cock similar to above, but plain in feather and very full feathered; to him mate three or four well-curled hens, the closer in curl the better. The plain pullets from No. 1, I should use with the best curled cock the following season.

It is no use trying to rear Frizzle chickens in February or March, it will only be labor in vain. The months of May and June are most suitable for this variety in England, especially in the northern counties, and not earlier than April in the south

BURMESE BANTAMS.

This variety of Bantams came to Scotland from Burmah about fifteen years ago. They are a small white Bantam when in their best form, but black, brown and speckled colors are also natural to the breed. They have a crest on their heads, single small comb in front of the crest, long wings, very long tails, extremely short legs, in fact so short that their breast and body almost touch the ground. Their short, heavily feathered legs and toes make it difficult for them to move about. The legs and beak of the Burmese are yellow, and from their general description we should think they were much like the Japanese, with heavy leg and toe feathering and crest added.

MISCELLANEOUS BANTAMS.

Origin—Peculiarities—Prominent Defects in Breeding and How to Overcome Them—English Methods of Mating—Standard and Non-Standard Breeds.

Sebrights (Golden and Silver), Rose Combs (Black and White), Booted Bantams, Sultans, Nankins, Cuckoos, Scotch Greys Polish (All Varieties), and New Breeds, including, Black Spanish, and Barred Rocks.

THE American Standard or Perfection recognizes sixteen varieties of Bantams other than Game. The English recognize some thirty odd varieties, including their many colors. We shall tell you of these many varieties of Bantams, gleaning our information from English writers as to those we do not recognize in this country.

Our Standard groups the "Bantams Other Than Game" as follows: Sebright, Rose Combed, Booted, Brahma, Cochin, Japanese and Polish. We shall follow this order, and then the others referred to.

In most cases Bantams were made, or produced from the larger standard birds of the same variety.

SEBRIGHT BANTAMS

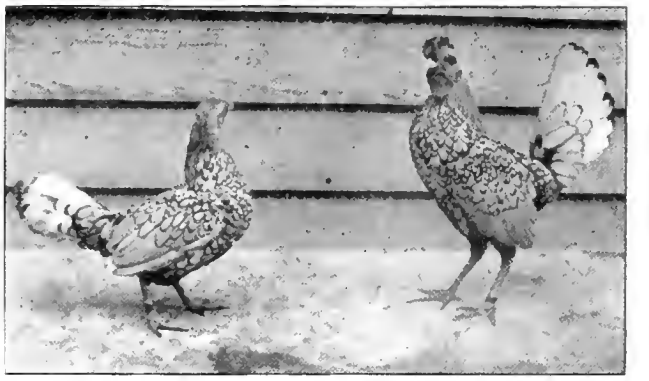
We hardly think Sir John Sebright contemplated the delight his production of Sebright Bantams would bring to the fanciers of the present time. No fowls are better known or more admired than the Sebright Bantams, and but few less understood. That most charming feature, clear, well-defined lacing, is so poorly understood or little appreciated by many, that it often makes one stop and wonder at the decision of experts who place awards on them. The so-called Sebright of two pounds weight should be placed on the spit to delight the palate of an epicure, but never in the show pen or breeding yard as a representative of his kind. A good Sebright male should never go over twenty-four ounces, and a female not over twenty ounces, whether old or young.

In the fall of 1896, we wrote the following for the American Fancier, and consider it of value at this time:

Before me are two articles written by two of our most noted writers, judges and Bantam experts, the tone of which calls my attention to the desired qualities of the Sebright and their shortcomings of the present day.

In the Canadian Poultry Review one of the above mentioned articles, from the pen of Mr. Babcock, calls our attention to the color of legs on the Golden Sebright, and his statement I shall consider, for it covers a point so often advanced by myself, and which deserves careful attention. His statement is given in full below:

"The Golden Sebright has blue legs, and it looks very well with them, but did you ever see a Golden Sebright with greenish yellow legs? If you have you have seen a symphony in color, for then the legs harmonized with the plumage in a way which blue cannot. I know that such legs disqualify the bird. I know that for the purposes of classification blue legs—which are the correct thing on the Silver—are the best. But I also know that art is above standards and the rules of classification, and that an adherence to art would compel the Golden Sebright to have yellow legs. I do not expect to see this change made in the standard until the time comes when many other changes, based upon a compliance with correct taste, are made. When that time comes there will be many sweeping changes, especially in the color of legs, of the different breeds of fowls. In this respect the standard, while in harmony with market prejudices, is out of harmony with nature and the law of coloration. The result is that the best successes now obtained are obtained with great difficulty, and they are far from being what the second best could be under a differently designed standard."



SILVER SEBRIGHT BANTAMS—JOHN F. HACKER & BROS

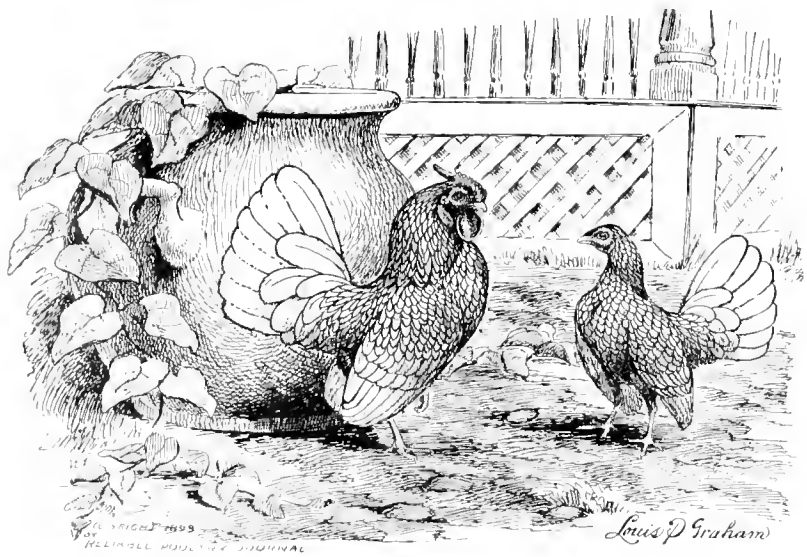
These are very sweeping statements and worthy of consideration, and while I should join the writer in the statement that art is above standards, we must admit that the laws of nature are far above both. This being the case, yellow legs could not belong to the Golden Sebright for the following reasons:

First, their origin, their advancement and their completion and make-up forbid it. Second, yellow legs do not from natural causes belong to birds of their color.

As to the first we must consider origin, and on this point the best evidence gives us two very positive points. One, the female used in the start was a very small buff colored Bantam with clear slate colored legs, no doubt a Nankin. Polish was also used, no doubt the Golden; also a cock of a reddish color and a small hen resembling a Golden Hamburg. Three of the four we know had blue legs, and we can feel almost certain that the reddish colored cock must have had the dark legs of the early Games, the majority of which had blue or olive legs. The only cross used that would indicate a yellow color of legs was the white bird used to produce the silver colored birds. The origin being so positive in the leg color, the product had it well stamped in the blood, and being the natural color of the original before the hand of man began to work changes of form and color, it claimed supremacy and held it.

As to their advancement, the club formed for their advancement about 1820 and continued for over seventy years, always mentioned in their requirements very specially the color of the legs. They say legs and feet are required to be blue. And this point being so positively established a change of color would be so radical it must destroy the color of the whole bird. When one so well informed on these points advocates so positive a change what must we think of a standard that allows in White Booted Bantams white or yellow legs when the special character of this variety is their white beak and legs? All white varieties if desired to be pure white in color will naturally in time have white legs and beaks. This again proves the superiority of nature over art or standard demands. Mr. Babcock also makes the following statements:

"It is not always easy to get the wings of the Golden Sebright just right. White will creep into the yellow and black will disappear from where it is wanted. Outside of the comb there is hardly a point where the breeding is so unsatisfactory as in the primaries of the Golden Sebright. Just why this should be the weak spot I have never seen explained and I have no explanation to offer. It may, perhaps, always



A PAIR OF SILVER SEBRIGHTS.

remain one of the mysteries of breeding, and there are many to all except the beginner—he understands more on the start than he will when experience has sobered his enthusiasm and reduced the size of his head.

"Another difficulty in breeding the Sebright is to secure narrow lacings which go clear around the web of the feather. The tendency is, if the lacings are narrow, to stop before they get clear around the web, and if they go clear around they are usually too wide and obscure the ground color and thus injure the beauty of the bird. My experience leads me to believe that this difficulty is greater in Goldens than in Silvers; why, I do not know—it is another mystery."

Here is presented the experience and opinion of one of our foremost experts about a breed of fowls now in its hundredth generation. He is compelled to admit the many shortcomings in the breed, one of our most artistic productions in fowls. Could the hand of man guide them still farther and produce the yellow legs and hold even as good qualities of color and penciling, or will nature refuse to lend her aid and thus destroy the whole? We all know full well how the attempts to govern the color of ear-lobes failed. How then, can we hope for the yellow legs?

Many trials must be made before one can fully understand the troubles that confront us when breeding these beauties. Here are pointed out the hard, rough places to be found when trying to produce the high grade specimen required for the keenest competition. In a well written article in the American Fancier by "Zim," he makes the following statements:

"All of us know full well that a perfectly clear tail, a perfectly clear wing or a faultless comb is very, very desirable, yet neither of these coveted qualities makes a bird, regardless of his style, shape, or lacing of other sections. Real judgment is the kind that makes note of all the good and all the poor qualities of a bird, and awards the ribbon to the best all-round specimen, regardless of the fact that there remains in the class a bird unnoticed that has one or two exceptionally good qualities, and several just as objectionable qualities. This applies to mating and breeding as well. The would-be breeder of Sebrights of to-day simply needs to start right by buying birds of the right sort and continuing to mate and breed on the same line, and he can not go far astray, as they breed remarkably true to-day."

After considering all these points the reader must remember that no variety of the whole number of standard varieties requires more perfection in every section than the Sebright, from the point of his beak to the ends of his toes. All must be perfection. This being the case, he who desires to produce the higher grade of perfection must study well his matings, for no variety looks better when fine in form, color and markings; none less attractive when inferior in these points. The standard for Goldens calls for color of a rich golden yellow, each feather evenly and distinctly laced all around with a narrow edging of black. Please consider this for a moment. What is a rich golden yellow? Is it the color of a fresh chestnut shell or an old almond shell? Is not the color of many of our Goldens entirely too dark, as judged by the wording of the standard? Is the black stripe kept to a narrow line? The answer must be "No." The color of the Silver Sebright should be a silvery white, with the narrow edge of black. Remember a silvery white, not a yellowish white nor any kind of white other than the silvery white. These colors when true and properly striped with the narrow edge of black, form a beautiful combination. The narrow edge gives a bright, gay appearance. A broad edge of black spoils the whole appearance of the bird. Next to bad color are a long back and a drooping breast. These faults should almost disqualify a bird. Why is it when the standard speaks so plainly on the points of form and color, that so many win honors that scarcely fill a single requirement? Too much consideration cannot be given to these words in reference to the Sebrights, taken from an English Journal, as follows:

"What has been lost and what gained in this particular variety? Probably birds are now to be found as accurately laced as ever, and the pure white ground color of some strains of Silvers has been an introduction of later breeders. But what has the sacrifice been? To begin with, we can remember Sebrights little more than half the size of the present exhibition size. Truly, in Bantams this is a great retrogression. Then the characteristic hen-tail of the cocks is seldom now seen in anything like perfection. But more than all, the beautiful coxcombical Bantam carriage has been lost. Let any fancier with an eye for form look at the lanky, ungainly tucked-up creatures now often in a prize pen, and then read descriptions of Sebright carriage a quarter of a century ago, and his only rational conclusion will

be that much has here been lost. What says Dixon, whose book was published in 1850? 'Here is a little whipper-snapper! His ample tail, from which sickle feathers are absent, is carried well over his back. His dependent wings nearly touch the ground. He is as upright as the stiffest drill sergeant, or more so, for he appears now and then as if he would fall backward like a horse that overrears himself.' What again, writes Mr. Hewitt in Tegetmeier's poultry book? 'In the carriage of these birds we find the very extreme of pride, vanity and self-importance. The feet are raised in walking much more than in any of the other Bantams, and planted again with the greatest deliberation and precision. When alarmed their deportment is most striking. The wings drop to the ground, not listlessly, but as if determined to make the most of their tiny proportions, while the head is thrown back and the tail raised, so that they nearly meet.' Other writers lay stress on the nervous motion of the Sebright cock, being almost like that of the Fantail pigeon. These descriptions are hardly that of the Sebright of 1896. A large field, it seems to us, is open for the improvement of the breed by intelligent fanciers in smallness and carriage."

Even in England they are alarmed at the backward step in this variety of Bantams. The most important feature of the Sebright and the one most neglected is form and carriage. The standard calls for a very short back and a full round breast carried prominently forward. The body should be compact, deep and short. On one very important point the standard is silent, namely, carriage. This is the one very important feature of their make-up, as Mr. Hewitt wrote many years ago: "They are the very extreme of pride, vanity and self-importance." Their carriage should be upright and striking, not drooped nor indolent. We see too many long, ill-formed, unattractive specimens to-day. They should be bred up to the following form and color: The Sebright should be valued as follows—First, size and carriage; second, color and marking, always demanding perfection of all four, for when either is wanting the combination is broken and the true beauty gone. The color should be for the Golden, a rich golden yellow; for Silvers, a true silvery white. Any other color should not be tolerated. Both should be distinctly laced all around each feather with a narrow stripe or edge of black. Remember that any other color is absolutely wrong and a wide edge or discoloration of any kind in ground color is despicable.

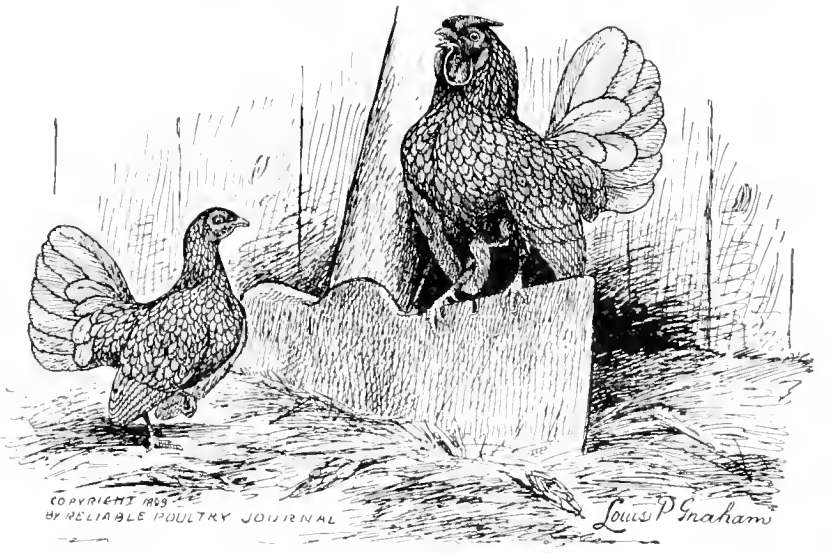
The first point, size or weight, as per our standard, is wrong. The bird should be smaller. As to carriage, it is almost lost. When have we seen such style as exhibited in the cut of the Silver cock? Let all take lessons from the illustration furnished with these articles and try to improve this most beautiful variety of Bantams.

Another important feature is often lost sight of, i. e., the shape of the feathers of Sebrights. They should be almost round, or quite so at the outer end; not oblong or tapering. The round feather when properly laced gives the right form of coloring. When long and tapering the center has the appearance of an oval white or golden stripe on the feathers. This is a very grave fault, in fact so bad that we cannot advise the use of such a specimen under any conditions.

Mating for best results is a matter of importance, and but one method can be followed with hope of success. Always use, if possible, hens over one year old for breeders. Whatever your females may be, have them small and perfect in color. If these females are light in the point of lacing, mate them with a male that is too heavy in lacing for the show pen. If the females are heavily laced, mate them to a light laced male. The tendency in this variety is to lose in color and lacing. Never hope for the best results from birds that are bad in color. None but the very best of this variety is good enough to produce fine specimens.

In regard to the male, study well the following: He should be sound of ground color; if golden, rather a little darker than the standard calls for, not on the reddish order, but like a fresh shelled almond; if silver, the ground color should be very clear, rather on the whitish order. Both should be evenly and plainly laced with a rich, greenish black. No mossy, smutty color of any kind ought to be allowed, and we must never hope for good results if much is present. Select one with this style of coloring and as little bad color as possible.

Get the very best wing, comb and tail you can find with the above color, and even then remember your selection is only half made, for you must have with this, perfect form and carriage, and small size. Always remember that twenty-eight-ounce birds are not likely to produce sixteen-ounce young stock. Two females with one male is better than four. If you use a cock bird over two years old, give him but one young hen. Always select birds with short, round feathers, and not long and narrow. Look well to the style and carriage of both male and female.



A PAIR OF GOLDEN SEBRIGHTS.

PROMINENT DEFECTS IN SEBRIGHTS.

BY PHILANDER WILLIAMS.

About breeding Bantams, I do not know if I can impart the knowledge I may think I possess. I have my ideas, but seldom speak of them.

In Sebrights, to keep the size down is one thing, and a great thing for me. This I have done by selecting a small male, with a small leg and as good color and shape as I can get. In size I have never had any trouble when I confined myself to my own strain. When I have introduced new blood by importing or buying here I always have increased the size. Comb, I never had any trouble about. I take care of that as I do in my other breed. Shape, we all have lost in Sebrights. Twenty-five or thirty years ago they were a proud, strutting bird and very pretty. But now they are long-bodied, and the ear-lobes may be white or red. To me it is a great mistake; since they have lost shape and the white ear-lobes they have lost their attraction for me, and if

it were not for the pleasure of trying to get them back, I would have given them up years ago. I used to practice hatching them in August and September to keep down the size, but in these days of comparison shows it does not seem to make much difference whether they are large or small. The lacing I do not think I ever worried much about. By mating the very best laced birds that will almost take care of itself. Sometimes I have been troubled with the main color being a little light, but care in mating will fix that. Too much black or smut in tail we often have, and then one must mate a cockerel too light in color. Like all other breeds, when you think only of one section of the bird, you are apt to lose in the others, as in the case of the Light Brahmas of to-day. We look to its hackle, wing and white surface color, and shape must take care of itself. We all follow fads and fashions. Is it not so?

P. WILLIAMS.

BREEDING AND FEEDING SEBRIGHTS

BY IRA C. KELLER.

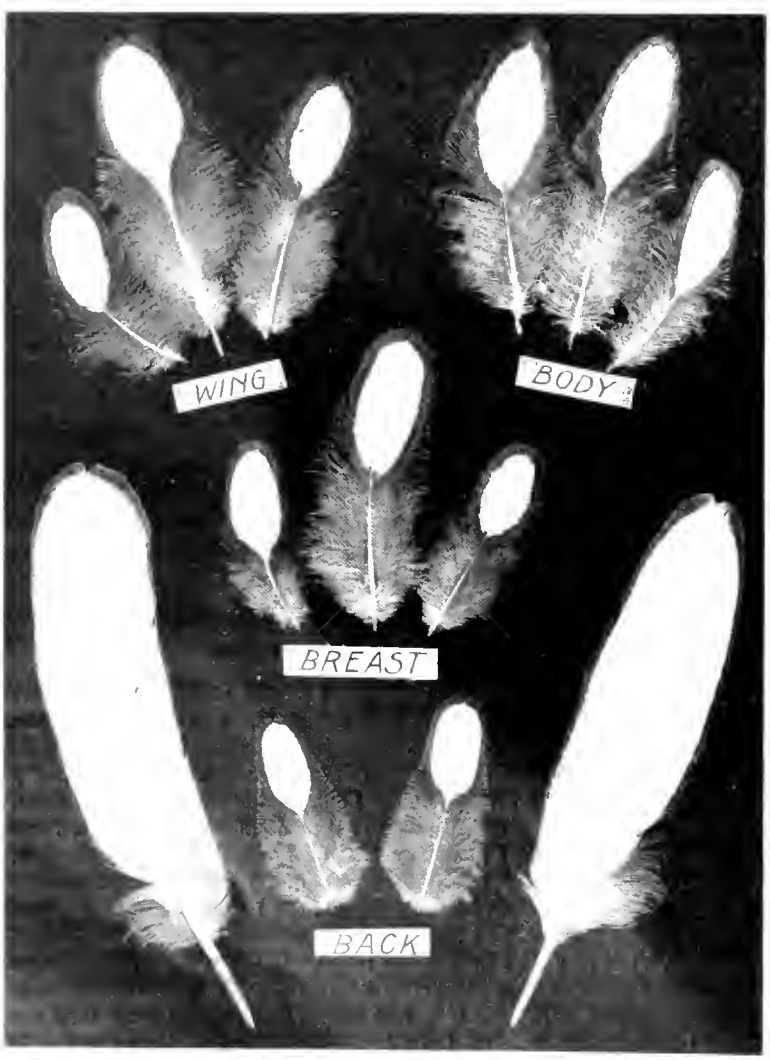
Possibly there is no breed of Bantams that has had so much attention among the fanciers as the Sebrights. It is right they should, for there certainly is no breed that approaches them in style and beauty. The narrow lacing shows to a great advantage, and so strikingly that at first sight they captivate the visitors at the shows. Breeding Sebrights in years past was very wearisome, but to-day they are so well and thoroughly bred that they breed a very large per cent of high-class birds. The fancy to-day demands a narrow lacing all over the bird. This is rather difficult to produce, but has been greatly improved during the past five years. In mating, to produce this narrow lacing, we select the most narrow laced birds we have that are full laced throughout, with other points good, and by doing this year after year, the lacing can be produced very narrow.

Shape and form need looking after. Early hatched Sebrights usually grow too leggy, long-backed, etc. The best time to hatch them is from the 15th of May until the 1st of September. One can produce smaller size and better form by hatching during these months. Most American breeders feed Bantams too heavy and too rich food. The Sebright likes free range best. It will find nearly all the food needed for its growth. They like to rove over pasture lands, through woods and along weedy fence rows. If given their liberty they are extremely prolific and will lay nearly the year through.

In feeding young Sebrights, we feed during the first two weeks bread crumbs and oatmeal; then we change to a chopped food of one part corn meal, one part ground oats and one part bran scalded and mixed to a dry crumbling mass. For the rest of the day we feed cracked wheat and corn, and as soon as they will eat whole wheat we give it to them. They grow to maturity very rapidly; usually are crowing at six to eight weeks old. No more attractive bird can be kept around the house.

Sebrights are very profitable to breed for show purposes. Good specimens are always in great demand at good prices. We have bred them for over twenty-five years and have never had any trouble in disposing of all we raise.

IRA C. KELLER.



PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION OF SILVER SEBRIGHT FEATHERS.

FIFTEEN YEARS WITH SEBRIGHTS.

BY MR. ATHERTON.

To decide the question of how to mate the Sebright Bantams for the best results, one must know at the very beginning what style of bird he desires, whether the darker birds with heavy lacing, showing strongly in contrast with white or gold web of the feathers and such as are recognized as distinctly the American style of the Sebright Bantams; or the style of the English fanciers, which has a much narrower line of lacing, and hence imparts a lighter color to the fowl, and to our own taste makes a much prettier bird. As a rule the American Sebright, with its heavier lacing, has a much darker under-color, especially on the back between the wings and near the tail. But what does the dark under-color amount to anyway? The standard does not even mention the subject, and yet some breeders are continually harping on dark or black under-color, and it matters not whether the feathers are laced or not, so long as the under-color is dark, etc. Having bred Sebright Bantams scientifically for fifteen years, we can say that we have seen just as evenly laced birds all around each feather, with the under-color a white or light slate, as we have seen with the under-color black or dark slate. The English style birds are all beautifully laced and yet always have white under-color.

If a medium dark bird is required, then it will be well to mate a light cock with dark pullets, or a dark cockerel with

light hens, always choosing a male bird for his small head, carried well back, with eyes full and bright, comb rose, square in front and even upon the head the small points on the top of the comb not too large, but rather slender, pointed and evenly covering the entire surface of the comb, tapering at the rear in a spike slightly inclined upwards.

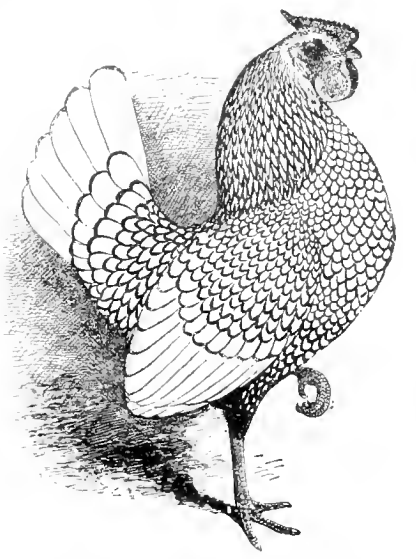
The Standard of Perfection calls for a white ear-lobe, but the sooner this mistaken fancy is obliterated the better it will be for all concerned, for it is a point now ignored by our best breeders and judges, and a bugaboo to amateurs. (This is an error, our Standard states, color of ear-lobe immaterial, etc.—Author.) A tapering neck, well arched, free from any trace of hackle, is an essential point, as is also a tail free from sickle feathers; although a male with slightly covered tail feathers, not exceeding more than an inch beyond the others, will prove the more vigorous and best breeder. Let the tail coverts be well and evenly laced, the tail feathers free from mossiness, or the blending of black with the ground color in the web of the feathers, but rather choose one with tail feathers, the body of which is pure white in the Silvers and a rich golden in the Goldens, and let each feather in the tail be also laced all around with black. This point is too much neglected and we see only the tail feathers tipped or spangled with black.

With matings as above described, you will hardly fail of breeding many prize winners. As to the number of females to be associated with the male, breeders sometimes differ, but we are in the habit of making up pens of one male and eight and ten females. It is advisable to have for each pen two males equally good, yet differing in some special points, and then change them, allowing one bird to run with the flock one day, and the other one the next day, and so on; by thus alternating the males the eggs are much more fertile. We have always heard so much about the infertility of Sebright Bantam eggs, but in all our experience, with Bantams of every kind, we never had any such trouble. All these remarks apply equally to both the Golden and the Silver Sebright Bantams.

ATHERTON.

THE ENGLISH METHOD OF MATING SEBRIGHTS.

BY F. PROUD, IN "THE FEATHERED WORLD," ENGLAND.



SILVER SEBRIGHT COCK, A MODEL FOR STYLE AND DISTRIBUTION OF COLOR.

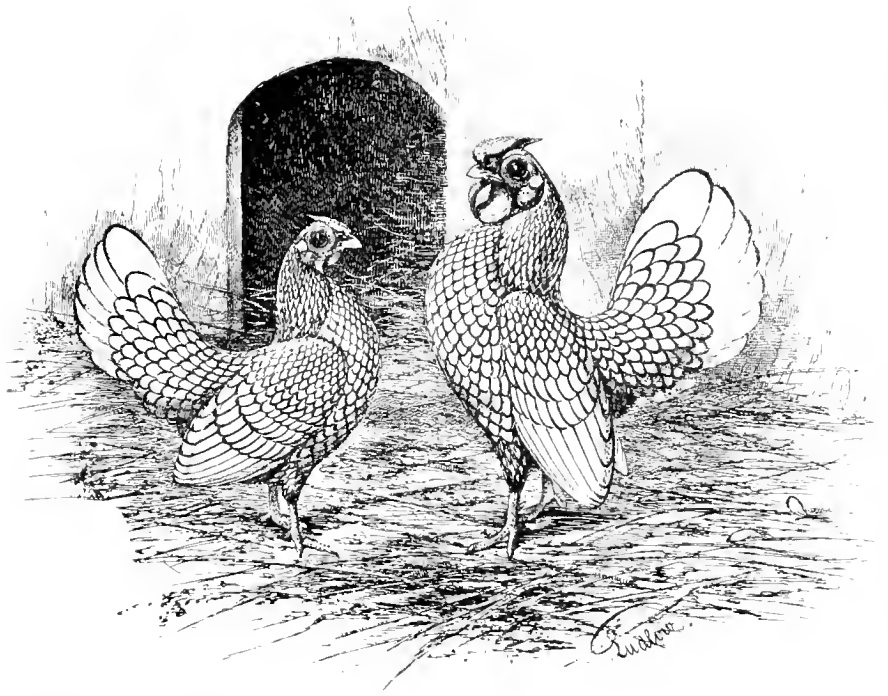
In breeding Sebrights it is much the best to use two pens, one for cockerel breeding and the other for pullets. In the cockerel pen select a sound laced cock, inclined to the heavy lacing rather than fine. He must be particularly good and distinct in breast lacing and tail. This is highly important. The flights or wing ends of the cock should be well laced, ground color of tail clear, and take care that he shows the desired damson color around the eyes the more the better. The hens to match him should be lightly or finely laced, but the lacing should be a sound black, not edged with brown. Each flight feather of the wing should be distinctly laced right to the end, tail perfectly clear in the center, but every feather laced, face dark mulberry.

In breeding for pullets I should prefer the cockerel to be very fine in lacing, but would at the same time require the pullets to be rather heavily laced, as dense a black as is possible to get, and at the same time the lacing must be distinct and even. The cock for pullet breeding should also have a fairly good breast, a good comb essential, clear in center of tail feathers, each feather laced, and well laced wing-ends. As I said before, a cockerel with a tendency to have sickles is very useful as a pullet breeder, and the eggs by a "sickled" cock have been found much more fertile than by others. On the other hand, cocks possessing short tails have invariably been found to be poor breeders.

The hens in the pullet pen, in addition to being rather heavily laced, should possess a good amount of lacing down the thighs, tail coverts, and tail, this is very important in pullet breeding.

In breeding Sebrights always select a small cock in preference to small hens, as larger hens are always the most productive and the chickens easier to rear than those hatched from eggs from small hens, and on account of the delicate nature of the Sebright chicks it is at all times better to use hens in preference to pullets in the breeding pen, although if the pullets are a good size and early hatched, I see no reason why they should not prove equally good.

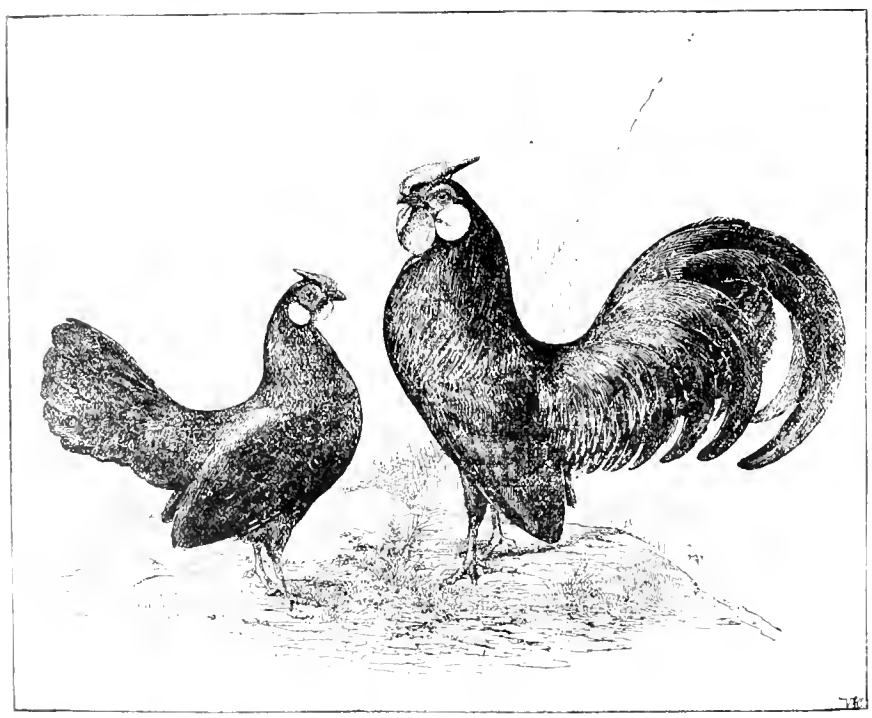
In conclusion, let me remind my readers of the great value of inbreeding in Sebrights, a breed in which color



By Courtesy of Fanciers' Gazette, England.

AN IDEAL PAIR OF SILVER SEBRIGHTS.

and markings play such an important part, and which it is almost impossible to obtain without inbreeding. If you think by purchasing half a dozen of the very best exhibition specimens from Tom, Dick and Harry, that you are bound to breed the same the following season, you will quickly find out your mistake, for it is very probable that the majority of the produce would be little better than wasters, whereas had you purchased only a couple of good breeding birds both of the same strain I have no hesitation in saying that the produce of these two birds would be of more value than all those bred from the half dozen exhibition birds, which would no doubt have cost you four times as much. Therefore start with some reliable strain and keep it pure. As long as your chickens are healthy you can go on with the same strain; always breed from healthy stock birds only, and when your chickens come weakly and are difficult to rear you will know that you have reached the limit of inbreeding, beyond which you should never try to go, but introduce another male bird with a certain amount of your own strain in him, when you will be able to go on again as successfully as before. P. PROUD.



By Courtesy of Feathered World

MR. H. INMAN'S BLACK ROSE COMB BANTAMS

ROSE COMB BANTAMS—BLACK AND WHITE

They Might Be Called Hamburg Bantams, which name would be appropriate—What Others Say About Them

The Black Bantam is spoken of at so early a day that some contend that it was his imprudent crow that got St. Peter into trouble. Be this as it may, he and his companion, the White, began their career long before any one took notice of them to keep a record of their beginning. Black and White Bantams with rose and single combs, with and without feathered legs, are mentioned as exisiting centuries ago. Moubray mentions in 1816, the fact that some Bantams were lately obtained that were extremely small, having legs as smooth as Games. He also gives to India the credit of their origin. (The earliest illustrations of Black Bantams show the rose comb and smooth legs.) Other writers claim Java as the original home of all Bantams, but be this as it may, they came to England over two hundred years ago, and the original were booted or feathered legged. Of these we will write later, only mentioning the above facts to show about the date of mention of smooth legged Bantams.

The Black and White Rose Comb Bantams began to gain favor and prominence as show birds in 1850. About this time some were shown that only weighed as follows: Cock fourteen ounces, and hen twelve ounces at twenty-two months old. At this early day the Whites were very true to color. Then perfectly white plumage throughout without a single stain, could be seen. These birds had also white beaks, legs, toes and ear-lobes. We allow at the present time the yellow beaks and legs and with them often have the yellow plumage and ear-lobes; for weight we allow twenty-six ounces for a cock bird, just twelve ounces more than the birds of fifty years ago.

It may be of interest to our readers to know what these Bantams were like fifty years ago, so we quote from the words of Messrs. Andrew Gwynne and Bailey, noted fanciers of the time. As to weight, they say: "The less in reason the better, but never diminutiveness at the sacrifice of shape, feather and condition. The Blacks: The males should have a full crimson rose comb, with wattles and face of the same hue, but with ear-lobes perfectly white; plumage glossy black, reflecting purple tints; tail full and sickled; short legs, which with the feet should be of a dark horn color. The hen is dusky black, with her comb and wattles small, and of a dull leaden hue."

Of their appearance they say: "Bold of carriage, a very caricature of Bantam arrogance. For the Whites the same form is demanded, and color as above stated." Rev. G. F. Hudson bred wonders of the White variety in those early days, and he wrote that yellow beaks and feet were quite an objection.

In breeding Black Rose Combs at this time the dull color of former days is not allowable in the female. It must be as in the male—lustrous black. To obtain this rich black with beetle green sheen in our females requires special breeding. A rich, true colored male must be mated to dull colored females to produce the best colored males. These same males mated to rich colored females produce fine females, but the males will show red in hackle and saddle and on wings. Male birds so bred should be reserved for pullet breeding only. To get the very best results, you must make special matings for both males and females. In selecting breeding stock special attention must be given to the quality of comb on both male and females. Look well for good shape, spikes and peaks, for no matter how good otherwise, a bad comb kills the appearance. Do not encourage bad lobes by breeding from either a male or female having them, for no fault will grow faster with as little encouragement. Do not pen more than four females with the male; three is better. If these points are well looked after and your birds are right in form, carriage and color, quite a large per cent of good chicks should be the result of such matings. Separate mating is not required for the production of males or females in the Whites. If comb, ear-lobe, color and form qualities are right they should breed fine specimens, but we

favor the white bill and legs, knowing as we do, that our Standard prefers them yellow. Our experience tells us that these colors add or detract from the pureness of both plumage and ear-lobes. The yellow beak and legs have an influence over the color of both, and the color is much purer when the white leg is well established in the blood.

To Mr. E. Hutton the credit is largely due for the present English type of Rose Comb Bantams. They are miniature Hamburgs in all their points. No doubt they were crossed with the Hamburgs to establish the form and color. Our standard allows blue or leaden blue for the legs of White Hamburgs, and yellow or white for the White Rose Comb Bantam. When white, a pinkish tinge on the back and between the scales is allowed. We consider this a mistake.

The proper weights for Rose Comb Bantams in good show form are about twenty ounces for a cock, eighteen for a hen, and in proportion for young birds. Some ounces less than this adds to their beauty if good form and vigor are maintained. When you consider that our standard only makes two ounces all along the line between a Rose Comb or Sebright and a Buff Pekin, you must be surprised to know that the English standard calls for a weight in Cochin Bantams, of thirty-two to thirty-six ounces for males; twenty-eight to thirty-two ounces for females; for Sebright Bantams, twenty-two ounces for males and eighteen ounces for females; for Rose Combs, sixteen to twenty ounces for males, fourteen to seventeen ounces for females, while we allow for the Rose Combs, twenty-two to twenty-six ounces for males and twenty to twenty-two ounces for females, six ounces more for each than they, almost one-half pound over their weight, and even then some of our specimens crowd close to the overweight line.

Most certainly the weights for Sebrights and Rose Comb Bantams should be reduced somewhat in our standard, and the birds should be bred to them. Again, our standard calls for a very short back for Rose Comb males, the English for a moderately long one. When did you see a Rose Comb with a very short back, being fashioned after the Hamburg? Their backs favor their forms.

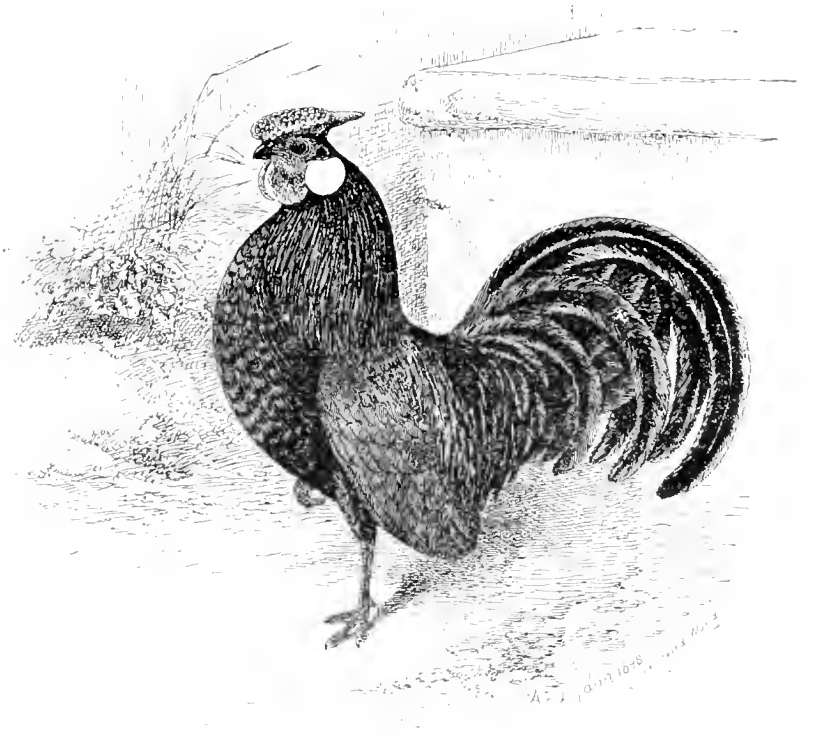
Many little points like these should be well considered by all Bantam fanciers. We formulate our standard oftentimes without due consideration for nature and thus word a description that if followed to the letter would change the real breed characteristics.

To breed Black Rose Comb Bantams at the present time, one must strive for a very lustrous beetle green shade of plumage in both male and female. Dull colors will not answer. To secure this shade of color, the very best colored specimens of both male and female should be mated together. If this method of mating produces reddish shading in males, use dull colored females to reduce the brilliancy in the males and keep the females of this cross for producing males.

To secure pure white color in White Rose Comb Bantams use only as breeders birds that have pure white plumage to the skin, white quills to their feathers, white ear-lobes and whitish colored beaks and legs. If pure white in plumage and ear-lobes they can stand a cut for beak and legs if these are not the best of color.

THE BLACK ROSE COMB.

The Black Rose Comb of to-day is an exact miniature in form, shape and carriage of the Black Hamburg. They have the peculiar droop of body and tail which belongs to the Hamburg. Shape cannot be too strongly considered and valued in these beautiful little fowls. When of the best quality they are truly beautiful. When under medium quality they have no value whatever. The size and shape of ear-lobe has been greatly improved. They should be of good size very even in shape, soft as kid, smooth and white. The comb of the male must be square and full in front, well pointed all over the top, no hollows or thumb marks about it; not very wide; nor too narrow as it runs back and tapers to a point. This point or heel of the comb should be finely formed, and should turn up rather than be either straight out or drooping; wattles full, well shaped, and as fine almost as silk. The face of both the male and the female should be free from any sign of white. The neck should be short and well feathered; with a sweeping hackle that comes well down on the shoulder. The rise of the tail and the sweep of the hackle leaves but little space for back—which must favor the Hamburg type; wings full and carried rather low;



BLACK ROSE COMB BANTAM—MALE

tail long, full and well sickled. A well favored cockerel must have a sweeping tail. Some of the best informed writers on the subject tell us that the Back Rose Comb has a longer tail when a cockerel than it ever again possesses, as each year it grows less in both fullness and length. The little Rose Comb male cannot have too much tail, either in main tail, hangers or sickle feathers; the broader and longer the main sickles are the better. Shanks and feet of both male and female should be smooth and black; shanks fine and rather short. The male throughout should be rather long of feather, small in size, and well endowed with courage.

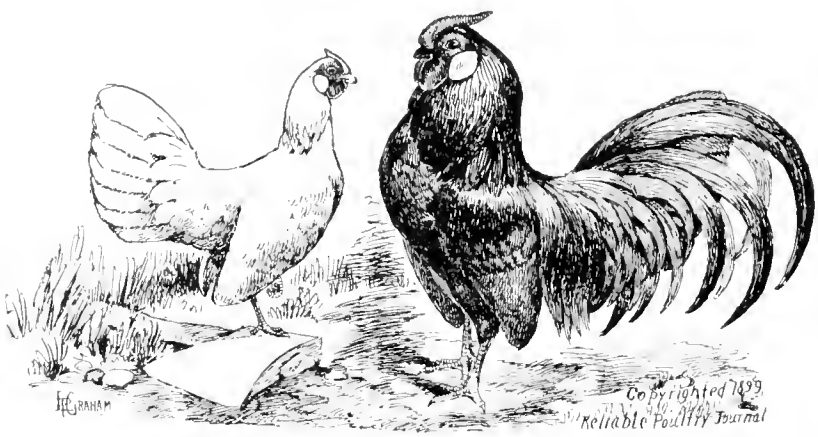
The female should be almost as beautiful and neat as the male, her long wings hanging down and her head up as smart and bright as a Game, her comb finely formed, and her lobes large, round smooth and white. The color of both the male and female should be a rich glossy black that glistens with sheen. Theu cannot have too much richness of plumage, provided there are no purple bars or bad color of any kind. The little Rose Comb hen is as beautiful almost as the male when of good quality—and there can hardly be

anything of less value in the way of a Bantam than a poor Rose Comb.

Good health and condition are of great importance to all Rose Combs. They are naturally rather delicate, and demand care and attention. Diphtheritic roup seems to be their enemy, and must be guarded against by having dry quarters that are well protected and properly ventilated, and kept as warm as a building can be kept without artificial heat. Draughts or currents of air blowing over them, either night or day, are bad for them; in fact such conditions are bad for all Bantams. More attention should be paid to ventilation of poultry houses of all kinds than is at present manifested. If a man goes to bed with a window open so that the wind blows directly on him, he is more than likely to get up in the morning with a cold—if he gets up at all. It is just the same with a fowl.

MATING BLACK ROSE COMB BANTAMS

In mating Black Rose Combs, you will find that the best males come from the dull colored females; and the best pullets from the richest colored hens. Many of the males from rich colored hens show bronze or red in plumage, and for this reason double matings are made; but the same results



BLACK AND WHITE ROSE COMB BANTAMS—MALE AND FEMALE

may be obtained by having both kinds of hens with each male and keeping the eggs separate. In this way you have the advantage of raising good chicks of both sexes from one male. In mating and breeding for this very rich color sooner or later gives trouble from too much color. It is best always to have at hand a few females of the dull dead black shade to mate with your highest colored males. Of all things in mating Rose Combs, be sure that the comb and ear-lobes of all of your breeding stock are natural, and not made or fixed. There is so much faking in head points practiced that it is just as well to be fully informed on this or you may have a lot of bad combs as the result of your years' labor at breeding.

BREEDING THE WHITE ROSE COMB BANTAMS

These are not as popular either here or in England, nor is the quality as good if we judge by those that we see in this country as the Black Rose Comb. Mr. Hearnshaw, of England, in his book on Rose Comb Bantams, tells us that the best Whites are bred in Yorkshire, and that Driffie'd is the great center for them. The Whites have gained in popularity, public favor and in quality, within a few years; and it may be that the time is not far distant when we shall have them equal in quality with the Blacks. They should have all the qualities of shape, comb, lobe and feather that the Blacks have, and in addition to this they should be a pure, spotless white in color. When we can have them with these high qualities they will be beauties of which we will be proud.

Poor lobes and short plumage are the leading faults with the Whites. To remedy this, the Blacks have been crossed into them; but the results have not pleased those who tried the experiment so far as I can learn. Bad legs, and black in plumage, show for generations. Greater progress has been made by selecting the best to be found and pairing them, and working for an out cross from other yards, rather than to breed in the black that is bound to cause so much trouble. In mating, place together the very best pair you can get, and continue to do that each year. Whenever you can find a well bred specimen of good quality, make use of it for new blood to add vigor to your line; for this variety has been so in-bred for years that anything like an outcross must help them. One cause of their unpopularity is that they must be washed every time they are shown, for they are apt to get very dirty. The beak and shanks of the White Rose Comb must be white or yellow. If you have the white shanks and beak you are almost certain to have very white plumage—a feature which is most valuable.

We quote the following from the Stock Keeper on Rose Comb Bantams therein described as

HAMBURG BANTAMS

BY P. PROUD, ENGLAND.

In concluding the variety Bantam articles with Hamburg Bantams, I bethought myself that I could not do better (seeing I had never bred these beautiful varieties) than write Mr. John William Farnsworth, who I knew had made a specialty of Silver Spangled Hamburg Bantams for many years, not only breeding them, but also exhibiting them successfully at a few shows where the classification was at all suitable.

To my request for information as to how he started and eventually perfected the Silver Spangled Hamburg Bantam, Mr. Farnsworth wrote me a thorough fancier-like reply, which I cannot do better than give in his own words:

"The following I do not say is the right way to go about the work, but it is the line pursued in producing my birds. My accommodation has always been limited, hence anything but Bantams in the fowl line was out of the question.

"Born with the hen fever of a permanent character, a general liking for anything small, and a great admirer of the 'black and white' combination, the Silver Spangled Hamburg Bantam, although only existing in my mind's eye, stamped itself at once to be the very thing. A really good but undersized Silver Spangled Hamburg cockerel of notable descent having been mated to a couple of rather large Sebright hens, resulted in my being, the following year, in possession of a fairly good Mooney cross cockerel which was mated to a somewhat large blue legged White Rose Comb hen, a Black Rose Comb hen, and his sister, a Mooney cross pullet. Another similar pullet was bred to a pure White Rose Comb cock.

"The remaining Mooney cross pullet, the smallest of the three, was put back to her sire, the Hamburg cock, the services of the Sebright hen being at once and forever dispensed with.

"These three pens produced a number of odd-looking chickens, of various markings, but a very good selection was obtainable therefrom, some of which were bred together, others were mated with White Rose Combs and Black Rose Combs to improve size and

spangling. By continued perseverance I produced some grand little birds in every respect but tail, which I could not get satisfactory. Eventually I bought a Silver Spangled Hamburg cock with a perfect tail and but 3½ pounds in weight (of the same strain as the original Hamburg cock) which, mated, to a couple of my largest Spangled hens, gave me some chickens with the desired tail, but, of course, oversized.

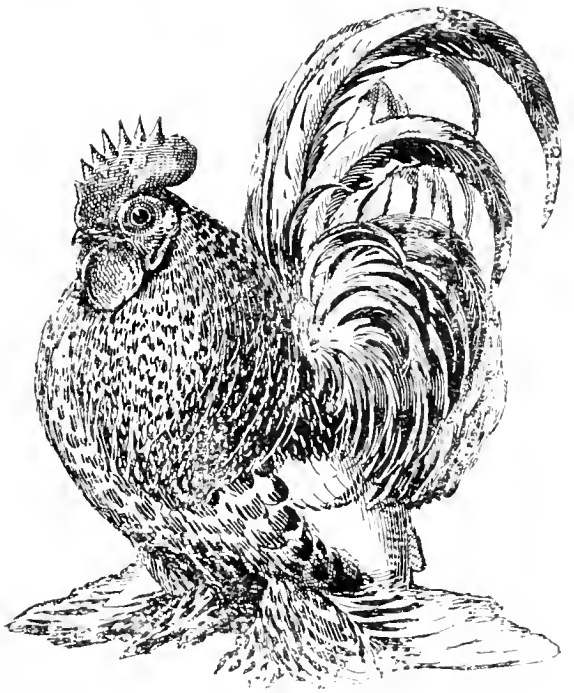
"These, bred together with care in selection for a few seasons, enabled me to pen three birds at Basingstoke Show under Mr. W. M. Leach, a club judge of the Variety Bantam Club, which supported the show, and I was awarded first prize in the A. O. V. cock class, and second and third prizes in the corresponding hen class, and, to me, very gratifying result. Since then I have but once missed the money when exhibiting them, and that at the Midland Counties Bantam Show at West Bromwich, where in seventeen entries I got the h. c.

"I have, of course, had the usual amount of trouble, expense and disappointments in bringing them into form, but I consider them without doubt one of the handsomest Variety Bantams out at present, and the Feathered World and other fanciers' papers have all spoken most favorably of them."

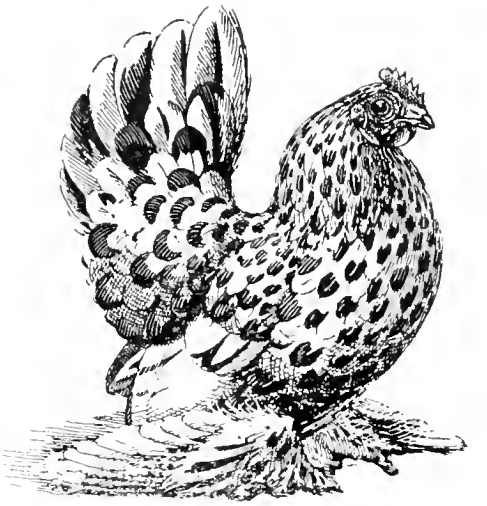
Such is Mr. Farnsworth's method of producing Silver Spangled Hamburg Bantams, which are without doubt one of the prettiest of all Variety Bantams, and the production of which presents no difficulties whatever. With ordinary luck and careful selection each year, by in-breeding after having obtained the desired color, and by breeding as late as June to reduce the size, there is no reason why exhibition specimens should not be produced in about four years. The only difficulty I can see would be in keeping the length and flow of tail feather, which to a certain extent would be lost in breeding very late.

Color and length of feather should be your guide in mating up your breeding pens, rather than size, as size can always be remedied, and very materialy so, by feeding and in-breeding.

Gold Spangles could easily be bred in the same way by using a Golden Sebright hen, but they are not nearly so beautiful as the Silvers, and I don't think for one moment that these would ever become popular, or pay for the time and labor.



BOOTED BANTAM MALE.
(After the Japanese Form.)



BOOTED BANTAM FEMALE.
(After the Japanese Form.)

I should think it would be quite possible to breed Silver and Golden Penciled Bantams by using Silver and Golden Penciled Hamburg cocks, preference being given to those birds which exceed in length of tail feather, and mating these to rather large Sebrights of their respective color. To get the proper fine and even penciling would take four or five years, as it would be difficult to get rid of the lacing on flights, but the time would be fully repaid in the long run. Unless the young fancier is prepared to devote both time and patience, and to persevere for a few years at an uphill game, he cannot possibly expect to perfect any new breed.

P. PROUD.

BOOTED BANTAMS.

Where the original Booted Bantams came from will never be known positively, but we do know that they came to us from Bantam, a town and district in Java, more than three hundred years ago, and that they were booted and of many colors, some having single, others rose, or double combs, as then called. How they came to that province will never be known. One of the early writers of 1850 tells us that feather legged and feather footed Bantams were among the earliest and most common of their race, and they were in color, black, white and yellow, and spangled in these colors. They were larger than now, and the feathers on their legs and feet were frequently four or five inches long.

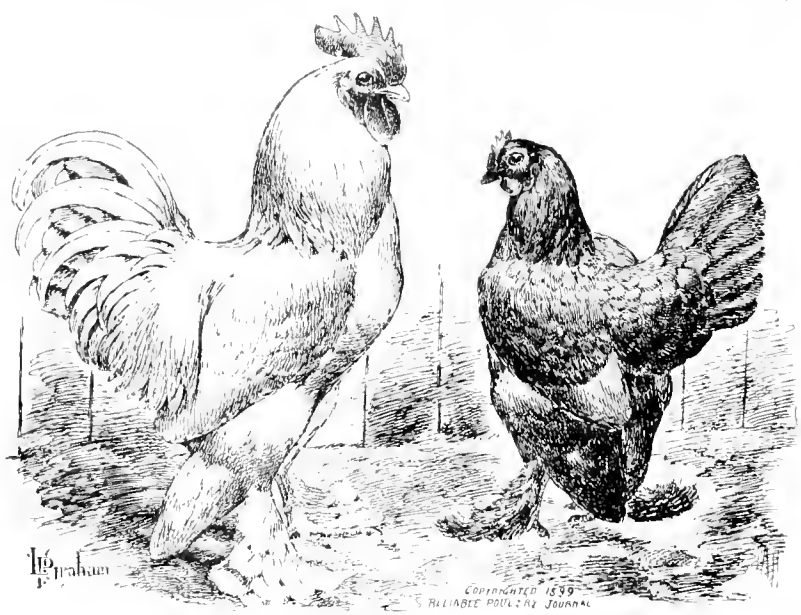
Booted Bantams of the present day, like other fowls, are much improved. More varieties of colors of them are seen than formerly. Judging from the illustrations taken from Mr. Entwisle's book on Bantams, the shape would point to a cross with the Japanese Bantam. The back, neck and tail of the female, and the whole body and tail of the male, show the Japanese form on heavily booted legs. Either our Booted Bantams are behind the times, or the illustration is at fault.

The English recognize the following varieties in Booted Bantams: Black, White, Speckled Black and White, Speckled Red, and Dutch Bearded. The Sultan Bantams are almost of the same class. The English writers place the Burmese and Silkies with them, but this, I think, is a little too much. I quote from Mr. Entwisle's book on Bantams

the following statement on Booted Bantams: "Take the best known varieties, White and Black Booted. Both are considerably larger than other Bantams, having been bred more for feather than for size, or, as some affirm, they have been allowed to breed any way, with no definite set purpose in the mind of the breeder as to a model for perfection. The result is, some closely resemble the Japanese in form and carriage, holding their wings and tail as they do, but having longer legs; others are shorter in leg and have a higher carriage of wings and a lower tail. This class finds more favor with our judges and breeders, and we think will continue to do so."

At the present time the English cultivate the Japanese form, only they wish the wings held up more and the tail thrown back or down more than the Japs, but they favor a shorter leg than formerly. On one point we should be very particular—the color of legs and beak. The white beak and legs are a distinguishing feature in them, as the pale bill is to the Aylesbury.

Booted Bantams should have a small, round head; bright, prominent eyes; handsomely shaped comb, and wattles of fine texture and rich color; ear-lobes, bright red and close-fitting; neck, full or heavy at base, nicely tapered to the head and rather long as compared with the size of the bird; hackle, very long and flowing over back; back, short and rather slanting; the tendency towards erect carriage gives the back a slight incline towards the tail; body, plump and short. The wings, tail, hocks and toe feathering are the distinguishing feature of the Booted Bantams. These we shall try to describe as they should be in a perfect specimen.



BOOTED BANTAMS—WHITE COCK AND BLACK HEN

The wings of a Booted Bantam should be long in flights and carried drooping, not tucked up as in a Cochin. The hock feathers should be quite long; if five or six inches in length and quite full, it adds much to the bird's appearance. Shanks should be long enough to properly support the feathering of hock, which should not drag on the ground; shank feathering not very full at hock, but should increase lower down. Feathers of outer toes and lower shank should be very profuse and long, the heavier and longer they are the more valuable. The heavy foot feathers, long wings and hock feathering of a fine specimen make it necessary to provide clean quarters for their home. When soiled and broken they are a disgusting sight.

The tail of both male and female should be full and carried upright. The sickles of the male should be long and handsomely curved over the back. The tail should not be carried so far forward as on the Japanese, but a little after the Leghorn style of tail. The female is of the same form as the male, with much less comb, wattle, ear-lobe and hackle. Her hock and foot feathering should be very profuse.

The preceding describes the true form of a Booted Bantam in its natural condition, free from all taint of Cochin or Japanese blood. Of whatever color, they should have their own natural form and carriage. When fashioned after the White Cochin Bantams they should be discarded as of no value. The color should be pure silvery white; or, when of any other color, rich and bright of its kind. The Blacks should be rich and lustrous of color and their beaks and legs black. The Whiskered or Muffled are just like the others, only they have heavy muff or feathers on cheek and under their beaks, also shorter legs and not so much feathering on hock and feet. They are seldom seen. Only a few care for or keep them. The Splashed or Spangled are marked very much like the Houdans. Few fancy them and they are seldom seen, even in the show room. The Whiskered or Muffled Booted Bantams came from Germany to England about 1870. They had short legs, broad saddle and smaller tails than the other type. These were bred by a few who admired them in their purity. Some of very rich quality were shown by Mrs. Ricketts, winning in open competition against the others. These birds winning over the original type, changed the line of breeding somewhat; breeders adopted the shorter leg and higher carriage of wing. Many also adopted the Japanese form, with a longer leg, thus preventing the hock feathers from touching the ground. This intermixing of the heavy form and short legs of the Whiskered variety and the Japanese type has so changed the shape that you now seldom see good specimens of the original type in White Booted. Why these changes should be made in form of these varieties we cannot understand, while at the same time the winning Blacks are fashioned after the original style, having more size, the upright carriage, and legs long enough for the heavy hock feathering.

To reproduce the best form and feathers in this variety, select as your breeding birds the most perfect specimens. It is useless to hope to produce valuable young from inferior breeding stock. Poor specimens have no value. The only real merit in a Booted Bantam is superior quality. If this is lacking they are no better than half-breeds. The most perfect specimens obtainable yield but a limited number of really meritorious chicks. This being the case, discard all that fall below the line of real merit and by using only the best, improve their quality.

When the old birds begin to molt and the young to lose their chick feathers, great care should be taken to prevent their foot feathers from being broken. About six weeks prior to the time you wish to exhibit them they should be cooped in dry, clean quarters. Coops not much larger than an exhibition pen are best. This prevents their scratching and destroying foot feathers. The floor of the coop should be covered with dry sand and should be cleaned each day. Never allow any food to fall into the sand, as this tempts them to scratch. If any part of the plumage is soiled it should be washed properly before sending to the exhibition. See full directions in another chapter on "Washing for Exhibition."

SULTAN BANTAMS.

Sultan Bantams are so much like the Booted Bantams that we will put them in this class for description. The Sultan fowl is first mentioned in the Poultry Book of Tegetmeier as coming from Turkey in 1854. They are described as being the Sultan, or feather Footed White Polish, resembling as they do the White Polish in many ways, having, however, shorter legs and fuller tail equipment, with vulture hocks and leg and toe feathering. They are somewhat smaller than the Polish fowls. The Sultan Bantams are a Sultan Booted Bantam, crossed and reduced by selection; or, in other words, a White Booted Bantam with a crest like a Polish and five toes like the Sultan.

Our standard recognizes only White Booted Bantams. The Sultan Bantam is not recognized by us. The White Booted Bantam could be made a most attractive variety if carefully bred. We should add the Black variety to our list.

In breeding these birds, mate together the most perfect specimens you can find, and reduce their size by selecting the smallest each year for breeders. Always use white birds that have white beaks and legs. Never tolerate in your breeding yards any other color than white beaks and white legs for White Booted Bantams, and you will soon establish this as a fixture in your birds. Decide whether you prefer the old style or original Booted Bantam or the new style fashioned after the Japanese form. When this question is decided, use only birds of the desired type.

NANKIN BANTAMS.

These little beauties came into notice many, many years ago, and they have taken part in the make-up of more of their kind than any one bird. They are seldom seen in England, and we hardly think a single specimen is owned by any fancier in America at this time. For their description, I must depend on the writings of others. Comb may be single or double, the best of early days had single combs; legs blue. Some had white legs, but my opinion is that the double combs and white legs came from a cross with other birds. When bred in England color of legs and style of comb did not matter so all in one pen were alike. Thus the two competed. These birds were quite neglected until they fell into the hands of game keepers, who use them for rearing partridges. Mr. Cresswell brought them into notice early in the seventies, by exhibiting a beautiful pen at the Crystal Palace Show. He preferred the double combs and white legs. I give our readers his description of them: "Size as small as possible, comb single or double, the latter preferred; legs blue or white, the former are preferred, but hard to find; the birds of my original stock had white legs. As long as these birds match in show pens the comb and color of legs are not essential points."

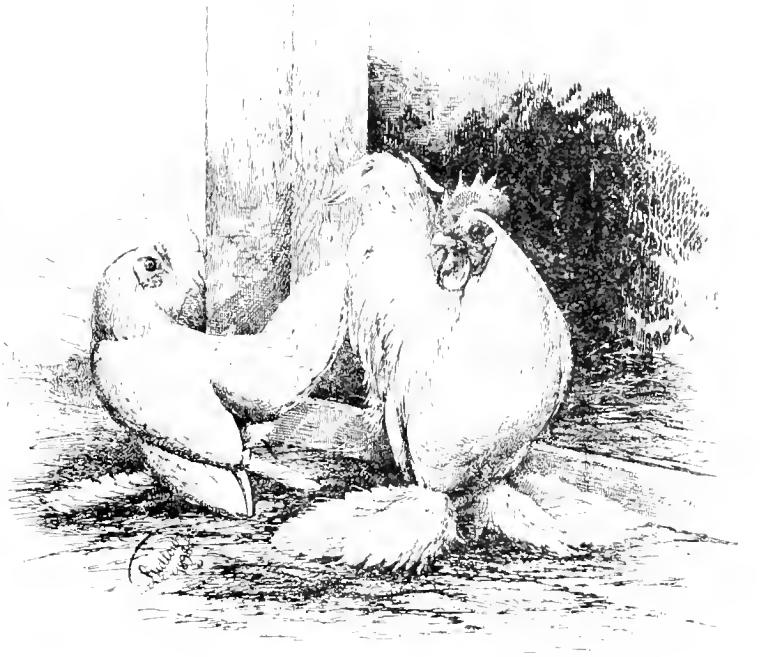
The cock has an amusing and conceited walk, with flowing sickle, tail and wings almost sweeping the ground. His breast and body are of a deep ginger color; the back, wings, coverts, neck and saddle a rich, orange chestnut; tail, dark chestnut, shading into black, almost like the original Cochin Bantams in color. The hen's general color is a clear buff, like a Buff Cochin. Dark, medium and light colored birds are found among them. Most of them have a shaded or penciled hackle, but they should be free from this, with tails brown, shading into black at the ends. The unseen half of primary in both male and female is often black. They are naturally very domestic and tame, excellent layers of good sized eggs and careful mothers for their chicks. They breed very true to form and color. The fact that these birds breed so true to their own type proves their originality. If taken in hand by experts of the present day they would soon become a favorite, both for their beauty and sterling qualities. Since writing the above, Mr. John Glasgow has secured and bred some of these little beauties of most perfect form and feather.

The Nankin cock is a very deep cinnamon or reddish buff all over, except tail, which shows more or less black, the less the better of course; legs and feet blue, comb, face and lobes red, comb single, eyes red. The hen is similar to the cock in all points except body color, which instead of being cinnamon should be a rich buff.

In breeding Nankins care should be used in breeding from those birds which are the soundest color throughout, especially in flights and tail; any showing white should be rejected from the breeding pen.

CUCKOO BANTAMS

Cuckoo Bantams, or miniature Scotch Greys, are like our American Dominiques. They have single combs and white legs. They are produced both in Scotland and England



By Courtesy of "Poultry," England.

WHITE BOOTED BANTAMS.

quite independently. Another variety of these same birds has been produced by crossing them with Rose Combs, giving them the rose combs and darker legs. These crosses produce Cuckoo color with rose combs, Andalusian color and light slate blue color, also both white and black with both styles of combs. These Bantams are almost lost sight of, having been pushed aside by the many new kinds more handsome of form and feather.

In my boyhood days we had the African Bantam, or Crow chicken, very small and finely built. In form they were very much like the early Games, the male being marked very much like our present Brown Leghorns and the females perfectly black. These little fowls bred as true as sparrows year after year. I bred from the product of the one original pair. They had for their home a big box covered with stiff paper and painted with tar, the roof made of boards to shed the water. Here winter and summer they grew and thrived under conditions that our present fowls could not stand. They had all the corn they could eat, but their size kept just the same. These fowls came by steamer to Philadelphia to a man who had a paper mill. He bred

from them and sent their product to the children of his sister, and from them came my pair from which I bred for years with no new blood. This experience illustrates the constitutional powers of these small fowls. Follow this plan with judgment and form, size and color are at your command in handling and reducing these small fowls.

SCOTCH GREY BANTAMS

The Scotch Grey Bantam is a variety which, if properly known, especially south of the Border, would have far more admirers than it can claim at present. With the exception of a few, the fanciers of this variety are very backward in looking after and furthering the interests of the breed. It is about time something was done to encourage fanciers of this variety to show birds near the Standard as possible, and be able to win with them. How can it be expected to augment the list of Scotch Grey Bantam breeders, when at one of our principal shows the best bird is "commended" while one of the prize winners is worth absolutely, nothing? I well remember at a large show one of the prize winning birds, a cock, having a very bad light colored hackle, a pale straw colored body barred with brown, and a very dark and cloudy tail.

We are sometimes told that there are different types of Scotch Grey Bantams. Truly there are many colors and shapes, and dreadful looking things some of them are, but there is only one kind that is worthy of being a type, and that is the bird which resembles the typical large Scotch Grey in everything but size.

The ground color of a Scotch Grey Bantam should be of a pale steel grey, not white, and every feather barred straight across, not V-shaped. The breeder should try to get the feathers barred right to the roots. As I am writing this I have feathers before me that were taken from some of Mr. Matthew Smith's large Scotch Greys, which are barred right to the roots, on fluff as well, and just as distinct and clear as the upper parts.

Some otherwise good birds have a few black feathers; these I consider one of the least faults, but white feathers I do not like, while brown or red feathers I consider a disqualification, and should not think of using a bird to breed from that possessed them.

The dark bars across the feathers should be small, and an intense steel black. These bars in a certain light should show a beetle green lustre, and the tip of every feather ought to finish with a sound black bar. The color of a Scotch Grey Bantam should be the same shade throughout, viz., head, neck, body, thighs, and tail. As regards the color of the beak, legs, feet and toe nails, all these should certainly be distinctly marked with black. The comb should be of medium size, upright, well set on head, and nicely serrated, and of a bright red color; ear-lobes and wattles small, and a bright red color to match the comb; body, neck, thighs and legs of medium length, not short and cobby as in a Rose Comb.

White in ear-lobes is a common and serious fault. Every breed of fowls has a leaning towards white in ear-lobes, but this variety, I am sorry to say, has a weakness that way, especially some strains, not only are their ear-lobes very white, but the shape of them is round. For this fault we have to thank those fanciers who have introduced black Rose Comb blood into their birds.

The Scotch Grey Bantams are sometimes called "Cuckoos," a name which is wrong and very misleading and one I strongly objected to. A "Cuckoo" Bantam may have feathered legs, yellow legs, a rose comb or a crest, and to be a really proper cuckoo color the head, neck and back should be a leaden-grey, not barred, tail feathers slaty-black with white ends, legs and feet yellow, they would then be rightly named, and more like their namesake, the common cuckoo (cuculus canorus). They can also be the shape of any variety of poultry. What I have always tried to breed, and will continue to do, and what I want others to breed, is a typical miniature Scotch Grey and not a nondescript of any color and shape. I am not a Scotchman, so that has nothing to do with it.

The Scotch Grey Club used to include Scotch Grey Bantams, but I am sorry to say they have ceased to do anything for the Bantams, so we must make a start for ourselves. I am endeavoring to get two challenge cups, one for Scotch Grey Bantam cockerels and one for pullets, and shall be pleased to hear from those fanciers interested in Scotch Grey Bantams who will assist me in helping on this pretty and interesting variety.—F. J. S. Chatterton, in Poultry.

POLISH BANTAMS

These miniature Polish are of the same form, colors and markings as their larger relatives of the same name. Both American and English fanciers have worked to produce these little beauties. The lack of general interest in them proves a barrier to their progress, and it may be their extermination. They are a most beautiful little fowl, and a Polish Bantam craze that would result in a club that would push these little beauties to the front might soon result in a special Polish Bantam show that would rival the New York cat show or the Boston exclusive pigeon show.

These Bantams have been bred in the following colors: Black, white, buff, silver, gold, cuckoo, blue, and white crested black. They are simply Polish Bantams with all the Polish markings, etc., that belong to the Polish family. They were produced by crossing Golden Polish and Golden Sebright Bantams for the golden color. For the silver color, Silver Polish and Silver Sebrights were used. For Black and White Polish, Black and White Rose Comb Bantams were used. These crosses produced solid Blacks and Whites, and White Crested Blacks; also white crested blue or slate colored and solid colored blues. The pure Whites were among the first to attract attention both here and in England. Up to the present time they are the most perfect of all Polish Bantams. Of them we shall make particular mention.

White Crested White and Buff Laced Polish Bantams only are allowed by our Standard; no other Polish Bantam is considered. Of these, two kinds or forms of comb are allowed—the single and V-shaped. Since January, 1902, all must have V combs and blue shanks. Birds of the single comb variety have silvery white colored legs and no beard, while those that have the V-shaped combs have blue or slate colored legs, and a beard or muff under the throat, extending back to the crest on either side. The beak of each conforms in color with the legs, either silver or blue, as may be. The blue colored legs, V-shaped combs, and beards, we believe, were produced both in this country and England at about the same time. The others show signs of an unnatural cross. Demanding, as we do, V or leaf combs and blue legs for Standard White Polish, why should we admit both in the Bantams? Then, as to weight, there is only two ounces difference in these Polish Bantams and a Buff Cochin Bantam. These points show a very unnatural Standard's demands. The English demand seventeen to twenty-two ounces for males and fourteen to eighteen ounces for females in all Polish Bantams. Why should our Standard permit such heavy weights for them?

The White Polish Bantams should be pure white and as

small as possible. Our preference is for the V or leaf comb. Having, as they do, the muff or beard, and being naturally the better formed Bantam, they should have the preference. To breed these successfully, select a male perfect in form, crest and beard; he should also have a large, well proportioned tail for his size. Legs should be of blue color and very smooth. His beak should also be blue and crest should be large and perfect in form. He should be mated to a small female as perfect in all these points as possible. A hen should be preferred rather than a pullet for producing strong chicks. It is always best to select as breeding stock birds that have the largest knobs for the crest to grow upon. Always select a crest that is well filled in front and as round as possible.

The other variety is or should be the same, only the single comb as small as possible. They have silver colored legs and beaks, in other points the same, only no beard.

In all other varieties of Polish Bantams the Standard for the larger varieties should guide, excepting the size. This in all Polish Bantams should be quite small. Do not try to produce these beautiful fowls and call them Bantams when half the size of the larger Polish. Their beauty depends on their miniature size.

Since writing the above Mr. F. B. Zimmer, of Gloversville, N. Y., has shown me his flock of Bearded White Crested White Polish, and produced evidence to show me that he was not only the first to produce this variety, but the only one thus far to produce them of proper size and shape with all the other features of this variety in so marked a degree as to assure reproduction of their high qualities. His strain of Bearded White Polish is, beyond all dispute, the best in all the world.

A new variety of Polish Bantams is just now before us—the Buff Laced Polish Bantams. To be of correct type they must resemble the larger Polish of the same variety in all features and conform in size to other Polish Bantams.

THE SULTAN OR BOOTED WHITE POLISH

The Sultan or Booted White Polish we mentioned with the Booted Bantams. Nothing could be more beautiful than a nice, well kept Sultans. They would help to swell the numbers for a Polish Bantam club.

A BREEDER ON POLISH BANTAMS

New York, March 13, 1898.

Mr. T. F. McGrew:

Sixteen to seventeen years ago I started in the plain Polish Bantams and thirteen or fourteen years ago I brought out the entire original stock. They originated in Massachusetts, near Agawam, as much by accident as any way. At about that time (thirteen or fourteen years) there was as good as none outside of my flock. The Standard just let them in and, as you know, called for single comb and white legs. (I do not know who made this Standard.) Many of the chicks had blue legs and I was not as particular then as I am now and sold lots of these disqualified birds after telling customers, but they were crazy after them, so they went. Being interested personally, I have kept my eyes open for Polish Bantams, and I never saw an English bird that was white, nor heard of one, with V comb and blue legs in America. And after I wrote our bearded Standard as it now reads, I never heard of any English being imported and am certain all those that are being shown in America now are from my stock, that I bred from big Bearded English Polish and my non-bearded birds. I will not assert that England never had a bird to conform to our Standard of Bearded Bantams.

F. B. ZIMMER.

SILKY BANTAMS.

The Silky Bantams are very scarce, and are known of the following varieties: Whites, Yellow or Golden, Browns or Blacks. Some of these have single combs, others the walnut comb. They are quite small, rather hairy, and said to be good sitters and mothers. Their native land was Eastern Asia, about Malacca. Early writers call them the woolly hen. Their feathers being almost entirely fluff give them the woolly appearance. Their skin and bones are of a purple or blue color. This makes a distasteful looking dish for the table, for when cooked they have a dark, uninviting appearance. In the early days of the Cochin some of them were called Silky Cochins, their plumage being fluffy to the very end of the feathers, showing the influence of home cultivation of the fancy in the Orient. Thus writes an early fancier of these fowls: "Silkies may be classed as purely fancy, having only their own peculiarities to recommend them. In place of feathers they have silky hair; the skin and legs are blue; face and comb deep purple; earlobes tinged with white. The best of them have five toes and pure white plumage."

NEW BANTAMS

The desire to produce new breeds is almost a craze with us. Not content with improving those we have, our attention is attracted toward new things. The new rule adopted by the American Poultry Association will close the door, for some time at least, against imitation breeds or varieties, as may be.

As a matter of record, I will mention a number of styles and kinds of Bantams that have come and gone, many of them with merely passing notice. The most attractive of these are the Penciled and Spangled Hamburg Bantams. They can be produced by crossing Hamburgs and Sebrights together, and reduced by inbreeding and selection. The Silver Penciled of these varieties is the most attractive, and we have seen some fairly good ones for the first cross.

Minorca, Andalusian, and Leghorn Bantams of fairly good form can be produced by proper crosses and inbreeding. We have seen Andalusian Bantams of fairly good color and comb, fashioned after the old style of Game Bantams. Brown Leghorn Bantams can be produced by crossing a small Brown Leghorn male with an old style Black Red Game Bantam hen. Inbreed and select the most perfect specimens of small size and breed from them late chicks. White Leghorns can be produced in the same manner, using small White Games for the cross.

Bantams called Centurions, buff in color, resembling White Wonders, are bred by crossing Golden Sebrights, Japanese and Buff Cochin Bantams with Buff Wyandottes. In our opinion the same or better results might be obtained by crossing the Golden Sebright on the Buff Cochin Bantam. This would give the buff color, the feathered legs and rose comb in much shorter time than the other numerous crosses. Buff Plymouth Rock and Buff Wyandotte Bantams are produced by similar crosses. In fact, almost every known fowl has to-day its counterpart in miniature form of more or less merit. This may do very well as a pastime, to please the fancy of those who produce them, but to have any real value they must possess the characteristics of the breed they imitate and reproduce of their kind moderately perfect specimens.

BLACK SPANISH BANTAMS.

Our attention has been called to the fact that they now have in England a most perfect little Black Spanish Bantam, about the size of the Rose Comb Bantam. It is claimed

that they are perfect little beauties, with all the features well developed.

Houdan Bantams, Dorking Bantams and Creve Coeur Bantams have made their appearance in England, in a small way, in the last ten years. All of them are splendid models of the larger fowls they miniature. None of these have as yet made any prominence for themselves. So far they are only a matter of record. The most prominent new variety of Bantams is the Langshan now being pushed for honors by their originator, Mr. Hughes, whose description of them is given below.

In general appearance they are just like the Black Langshans; in fact, a perfect counterpart of them in miniature form. They also have their egg producing trait. They were produced by breeding in direct line from Black Langshans by proper selecting and mating and now breed true to size and form; in fact, they breed so true that a large per cent of them are quite good enough for either exhibition or breeding.

Now a few words regarding how I came to breed them. In the fall of 1892 a Black Langshan hen stole her nest and hatched a brood of chicks in November. The flock which had this hen as a member was running at large in an old orchard and I did not see either the hen or chicks until snow came and I looked to see if all the stock was roosting in the house; then I found the chicks. Well, my first thought on seeing them was, "How much they look like Bantams!" These chicks, five of them, survived the winter, and the thought that they looked like Bantams was father to the resolve to try to breed from them Black Langshan Bantams. The chicks were dwarfed in size and to-day two of the hens that were the foundation of the O. K. strain of Black Langshan Bantams are alive and only weigh three pounds each.

As to how I succeeded in my resolve to breed and establish a strain of Black Langshan Bantams I refer the reader and others interested to my past exhibits of them.

WILLIAM H. HUGHES.

BARRED ROCK BANTAMS

A Tale of Their Importation and Improvement.

BY C. H. LATHAM.

Written for the Reliable Poultry Journal.

(For Illustration See Frontispiece.)

During the summer of 1900 there appeared in the American Fancier a short article relating to some Barred Plymouth Rock Bantams that a fancier in England had originated. Having had for a long time a desire to have Barred Rock Bantams, as well as having Rocks of Standard size, I at once wrote a letter to the originator, asking for information, sample feathers, etc. Being favorably impressed with my answer and the feathers sent, I placed the matter with a friend who was about to pay a visit to England. Late in September my first importation of Bantams arrived, a cockerel and three pullets, as far as I know the first Barred Plymouth Rock Bantams in America. These birds were shown at the Boston show the following winter. In the spring of 1901 I imported two more males and three females. All the birds were very small, the first four birds weighing only five pounds when they arrived, and they were in fine condition.

I now had a good foundation to build up a flock of real B. P Rock Bantams. They had a good deal of barring, but with color only fair, a long way from one of our fine exhibition Barred Rocks. Fortune favored me with a very small stunted Barred Rock cockerel, a present from a friend who was breeding Barred Rocks. This bird at six months of age weighed only three pounds. Mating him with two of the females, I succeeded in getting a number of birds of greatly improved color and barring and much stronger Rock characteristics. A pen of the best of this cross was shown at the Boston show in 1902. The season before I carried my hatching into September. The little fellows grow and mature so quickly that they can all be hatched and raised after the crop of larger chicks are well along towards maturity. Among the last chicks hatched in September, 1901, was a cockerel bred from the imported birds pure. He was very small, hardy and full of vigor. In the spring of 1902 he was mated to the best of the females bred from the stunted Barred Rock cockerel the season before. The progeny of this mating showed still greater progress, approaching very near to our best show color in the females, very nice Rock shape and nearly down to original size of the imported Bantams.

I made an exhibit of these birds at Madison Square Garden, New York, the past winter, among them being the bird photographed and shown in frontispiece. Bantam fanciers have taken a good deal of interest in them, and I have made several nice sales of stock and a good number of sales of eggs since placing them on sale. I am promised competition the next time I show at Madison Square Garden, and the day is not far distant when there will be warm times in Barred Plymouth Rock Bantam alley. Having passed through so many hot contests with my Barred Rocks, I can but anticipate with keen enjoyment the battles to come with the little fellows.

I find the Bantams very hardy, easy to raise and they grow very quickly. They will pick up the most of their food if running at large. Late summer and fall is the time to raise them. At this writing (May 29th) I have not hatched any Bantams. Late June, July and August give me the best birds, and they can be hatched and raised as late as September if a warm place can be had to winter the chicks. After the chicks are weaned from the hen, if they can have free range they will need but one small feed a day, wheat or other small grain. They stand confinement splendidly and can be kept in very small quarters, and if properly cared for will lay eggs the year round. For a Bantam they are a very practical bird, make very interesting pets, and I believes are destined to become one of the most popular varieties of Bantams.

C. H. LATHAM.

EXHIBITING AND JUDGING BANTAMS.

THE proper time to begin preparing a bird for exhibition is when selecting the parent bird for the breeding pen. Perfect health and condition are quite as necessary in the parent bird as in the offspring; the former will not produce healthy stock if in poor condition; unhealthy birds will not make exhibition birds of true value, for such birds will not stand the preparation necessary to condition them for competition, and without such condition the chances of winning are very poor.

After twenty-five years of experience in poultry exhibitions all over the country I am fully prepared to say that the successful exhibitor of fancy fowls is always either an expert at conditioning birds or a successful purchaser from those who understand the art. Never in all my experience have I seen a poorly conditioned bird win in strong competition. When this is considered in its true light we fully appreciate the necessity of having exhibition stock in the highest show condition. This includes perfect health, perfect plumage, high condition of flesh (not overly fat) and perfect cleanliness from tip of comb to end of toes. Not one single section can be overlooked or neglected in its preparation if success is to be assured.

To properly rear a bird for exhibition it must be well looked after from the day it is hatched. It will not answer to allow them to grow up as they may and then select the best for exhibition; they must be properly fed, watered, housed, and kept clean and free from all insects and diseases. In Bantams they must be fed quite enough to keep them growing properly, but not overfed so as to force them to oversize. Good health and condition must be maintained. And, above all, never allow your birds to run about in the wet after cool weather begins in the fall. If perfectly dry the cold will not injure them.

When fully matured, handle Bantams in preparation for exhibition as follows: All smooth legged varieties should be kept busy hunting in hay or straw for all they get to eat. The litter must be kept clean and dry. This continued digging gives a fine polish to feet, legs and plumage of the birds; hardens their flesh and keeps them under Standard weight. The feather legged birds must be continually watched to prevent their scratching and destroying the feathers on their feet. Small coops must be provided for them, the floors of the same covered with clean, dry pine sawdust. All food should be given in dishes; great care should be taken not to drop any of the food on the floor of the coop, for this will induce them to scratch and break their foot feathering. The sawdust must be put through a coarse sieve each day to free it from all dirt and droppings, for thus only can perfect cleanliness be observed.

All smooth legged, close feathered varieties should have their plumage polished at least once a day with a cotton flannel cloth or a silk handkerchief. This will keep them perfectly clean and free from any bad condition of plumage, and add luster and finish to same. Never use oil of any kind upon the feathers, for while it looks well for a few days, it soon gathers dust and dirt, thus destroying the rich appearance of surface plumage.

By keeping the legs of your fowls perfectly clean and nicely polished with a woolen cloth or chamois skin, no roughness or bad color will appear; when neglected it takes so much hard rubbing to make them presentable, that they often have the appearance of having been scaled to the quick. When this is carried to excess and the spurs shelled it gives the legs the appearance of raw meat. This should count against the specimen in the show pen.

The proper training for the show pen is of great importance. No good excuse can be offered for placing a wild, untrained specimen in the show room. It is quite impossible to properly consider the good or bad points of such applicants for honors; but few of them can be considered as a factor in a closely contested class. All birds intended for show purposes should be trained to stand in the most attractive positions and be taught to allow any one at all times and in all places to handle them and remove them from their coops. When thus taught to put their best front forward, if of good quality and condition, all is done that can be done. Such a specimen has considerable in its favor as against one that has no training for the show pen.

Almost every one who has found it necessary to wash his fowls for exhibition follows methods and ways of his own. Some use hot suds and a sponge; others, alcohol to clean the spots from the plumage, and others brush the outside or surface plumage with hot suds and a stiff brush. All these methods are good, if they succeed.

My plan is as follows: Fill a tub (or bucket of the proper size to meet the demands for room according to the size of the bird to be washed) with warm water. First wash head, comb, face and wattles with a small hand brush; use a very little soap for same. Next scrub feet and legs very clean with same brush. If the fowl has feathers on legs and feet, wash quite clean with plenty of soap. When these parts are perfectly clean put the whole body of the fowl into the water and thoroughly soften the feathers. As soon as the feathers are well soaked with the water rub them through and through with plenty of soap; use your hands and fingers for this. Work the soap well into the

TRAINING FOR EXHIBITION.

skin; wash them as if you wished to get every spot of dirt off the skin. When satisfied that the under plumage and skin have been well cleaned by thoroughly washing every spot with your fingers, then wash the surface plumage with your hands and plenty of soap. When satisfied that all has been well washed dip the whole bird under water and with your hands wash the feathers thoroughly and free them as much as possible from the soap. Then thoroughly rinse in a tub or bucket of clean, warm water. When the feathers are perfectly free from all soap and dirt, then plunge the whole bird into clean, cold water. When removed from this dry the feathers as much as possible with cloths or towels. Always rub the proper way of the feathers. When as much water as possible is worked from the feathers in this way, take the fowl by the legs, allow its head to hang down and swing gently so the wings will flap and plumage be loosened.

The most important part of the operation is the proper drying of the plumage. The best way to dry the plumage is to place the bird in a very hot room; a room that is heated with steam is the best. If the hot room is not convenient place the bird in a coop close to a warm stove or open fire. Great care must be used not to allow the face or comb to blister before the hot fire. To properly dry the plumage the fowl must be kept in a very warm place till perfectly dry. The feathers must be all quite dry through and through, or they will stick together and look very bad. If dried quickly in a very warm room the feathers will web out nicely and look beautiful and fresh. If poorly done they will look worse than before. It is better to make the first attempt at washing a fowl with one of little value. Do not experiment with one of your best fowls. Learn the lesson first and then work with the exhibition stock. Always put some blue in the rinse water for white fowls, about as you would for white clothes.

When preparing birds for exhibition remember that fine condition goes far towards their winning, and nothing helps more than perfectly clean plumage, legs and feet; so in preparing them use great care in washing any part that may need cleansing, or, if necessary, the whole bird.

In Judging Bantams, Type and Breed Characteristics Should Have Preference Over Color.

By far more quality should be demanded in Bantams than seems to be the general rule throughout the country. Leniency seems to be the ruling passion in placing the awards in many sections of the country. Poor birds are allowed to win oftentimes when it would be far better to have passed the specimens by without notice. Whenever a prize is wrongly placed it tends to mislead all who may see the specimen and in this way injures the breed or variety. A Bantam to win in Dakota should have equal quality with those that win the same honor in Boston or New York. Quality should be the same the world over, and should be demanded by the judge at all times. No matter what the breed may be, the rule for judging is just the same. If we take the Cochin Bantam, for example, our rule should be, first of all, shape, which must be true to the Cochin breed. A thin, narrow, long legged specimen is not Cochin in shape, and could not be regarded as a good Cochin Bantam. It must have the Cochin type or it is not a Cochin Bantam. The same is true of the Game, Rose Comb, or Sebright Bantam. They must have the breed characteristics or they are not of that breed. It is true that we cut for shape; but how much will you discount a Cochin Bantam that is not Cochin shape? It is not possible that it should win a prize of any kind if it is properly judged.

When you see a short, low set Game Bantam win a prize, it is entirely wrong and out of place. A Bantam that is shaped like a Homer Pigeon is not a true Game Bantam; and no matter if it is as beautiful in color as it is possible for it to be, it is not a Game Bantam, and should not have any notice in the list of awards. Shape, above all things, should take the lead in Bantams; and whenever they lack this they should not be classed with exhibition specimens. A fowl that has the size and shape of a Cochin Bantam is not a true Brahma Bantam, although it may have all the colors and markings of a Light Brahma. It should have both the shape and the colors of the Light Brahma as well as Bantam size.

In the selection of all Bantams, always remember that "shape makes the breed, while color is the variety distinction." Both must be of the highest character to have the required quality for a first-class exhibition Bantam. If we could come within this rule with all breeds and varieties, whether large or small, we should have much better quality all along the line. Do not imagine that good shape and poor color will do, for it will not. Shape, color and size must all be positively correct as per the wording of the Standard to have a Bantam of any breed or variety come within the scope of a high class exhibition specimen.

DISEASES OF BANTAMS—THEIR REMEDIES.

Colds—Roup—Canker—Crop-bound—Cholera—Diarrhoea—Leg Weakness—Scaly Legs Lice Gapes Pip—Chickenpox—Going Light.

BANTAMS when young have many dangers confronting them. Being so small, of necessity they are tender and delicate. Sudden changes of the weather during the night will often cause them to droop and look out of good condition, but with care they will prosper as well as their larger relations. To prevent disease be positively certain that the parent birds have no taint of any kind about them. Positive absence of all disease in the breeding stock is first to be considered. When the eggs are set under the hen, she and the nest must both be perfectly free from dirt or lice, and the hen must be in perfect health. To make doubly sure, dust the hen well with insect powder (Persian is the best) before placing her on the eggs, and again one week before due to hatch. This should destroy all insect life; but do not trust it. In addition give the hen a good dust bath for her use during incubating; and when the chicks are hatched look sharp for their first enemy, the head louse, usually to be found, if present, on top of the head. They may locate on the neck. If none are present you may conclude the chick is safe for a week from them. When any are found, paint well the head and neck with melted lard, a little warm—not hot. Use small, stiff, flat brush, and be sure the head and neck are oiled well to the skin. This will destroy all that may be present; but keep a close watch against their return.

More young Bantams die from diarrhoea than from all other causes. People usually concede that the food they eat is the cause of the disease; they change the diet, and then wonder what makes the trouble. Nine times out of ten it is caused by taking cold in some way; bad or sour food will cause it; want of grit or too much water after a long thirst will produce the same result. The best remedy is to give them special care so that none of the above causes will exist. Should the chicks be so affected, clear all obstruction from the vent by removing the soiled down with a pair of scissors, using great care not to cut the skin. Anoint with fresh olive oil and feed dry cooked food. Always provide plenty of good, sharp sand, or very small grit for them.

The next trouble for the little Bantam is cold. Until fully feathered they are very susceptible to changes in the weather. Cold, damp days and nights often work havoc among them. The only sure preventive for this is to house them in a well-constructed coop, having a covered run, where they can enjoy partial freedom during bad weather. When affected feed warm, rich food, keep them dry, and tie a lump of camphor and a small stone in a piece of white muslin and drop this into their drinking water. The stone is for a sinker; camphor is good for cold in all cases. If Bantams are kept free from lice, cold and dampness, and properly fed and watered, they will be free from every disease

ROUP.

This name is applied to all stages of the ailment, from a slight cold to the most disgusting diphtheritic condition. Some time since a statement appeared in one of our journals, saying that young chicks never have the roup. The author has discovered that the above is incorrect. Being asked to look at a brood of chicks that were hatched where no other chickens had been for several years, he found them to be about three weeks old and affected with roup and canker of the very worst kind—eyes swollen and an offensive discharge from the nostrils. This proves that it can come at any time. No doubt such cases start from diseased parent birds.

How to cure roup is a question hard to settle. If in the stage of a slight cold, clean the mouth, throat, nostrils and head with warm water and soap, rinse well with warm water and vinegar, half of each. Take a small syringe and force some of this warm mixture through both nostrils till well cleaned. Follow this with an injection of olive oil. Place the bird in warm, dry quarters and feed soft food. If this does not improve the patient and it grows worse you will save time by destroying the specimen and burning the carcass.

Another treatment is to cleanse them as above and give aconite or arsenicum. Others say spongia in their drinking water is a good remedy. All these methods will help some of those afflicted with the disease; but when the case is so bad that they grow worse each day under such care, it is better to kill them.

I have seen specimens cured by dipping the head in a can of oil (kerosene). This will also remove all the fea hers from the head, but they come again. So many call a simple cold the roup. Usually when cured by any reasonable means it is a simple cold, but real roup in a fowl is as bad as diphtheria in a child and as hard to cure.

The following on disease is printed by permission of Dr Wm. Y. Fox, of Taunton, Mass.:

COLD

A common cold is probably the most prevalent disease the human family is subject to, and the same is true of Bantams. The first symptom is sneezing, then a discharge of clear, watery fluid from the nostrils and eyes; later, a slight loss of appetite and general dumpishness.

In itself a cold is of little consequence, but, as it is often the forerunner of roup, it must not be neglected. Cold is generally caused by drafts blowing across the roosts at night, or by filthy quarters. It may also be caused by dampness in the house or runs, or too much exposure to bad weather. Bantams can be allowed in their yards in very cold weather if the ground is free from snow and mud, but they are much better off in the house if there is mud or snow on the ground, or if it is stormy. In this respect they certainly require more care than the large varieties. The prevention of colds lies in keeping the flock in clean, tight, dry quarters.

The treatment is very simple. If only one or two are affected remove them from the rest and place in a coop where they will be warm and free from drafts. Get some camphorated oil, at any drug store, and with a small glass syringe inject it into the nostrils twice a day. This will generally effect a cure within a few days. If many of the flock are afflicted in this way it will be impracticable to

treat separately, and the first thing to do is to find and remove the cause of the illness. Having done this, keep a small piece of gum camphor in the drinking water and watch carefully for further symptoms. Do not allow the nostrils to become plugged by a crust, as they often will, because the discharge will be held back and act as a poison.

After the nostrils have been obstructed a day or two the head will begin to swell and before we know it we have a case of roup to deal with. The injection of camphorated oil as already directed will usually keep the nostrils free and open.

ROUP.

This is a contagious disease, and generally begins as a simple cold. It is often fatal, and is much to be dreaded as it will sometimes go through the whole flock before the owner is aware that there is any serious trouble. It is difficult to say just when a cold turns into roup, but when the discharge from the nostrils and eyes becomes thick and sticky, and of an offensive odor, you may be sure that you have a case or roup. The next symptom is swelling of the head and eyes; frequently the eyelids will stick together, and if washed apart a large amount of fetid matter will escape. As these symptoms increase the bird is growing sicker all the time, more dumpish and has little or no appetite.

Roup may be prevented by good care and prompt treatment of every cold, but above all by care in introducing new birds into the flock. Whenever you buy a new hen keep her in quarantine at least two weeks, until you are sure she is in perfect health, before exposing your stock to the danger of contagion. Bantams of a strong, vigorous constitution, properly housed and fed, will never have roup, unless they catch it from some diseased fowl carelessly introduced into their house.

Probably the most common way for the disease to be transmitted from one to another, is through the drinking water. Be careful to thoroughly clean and scald any drinking vessel that has been used by any sick Bantam, before using it again. It is doubtful whether the disease can be carried in the air, but give the well birds the benefit of the doubt and confine diseased ones in separate houses or rooms. It is unwise to keep an invalid in a room with a fire, unless you are prepared to keep him there until warm weather, for it will never be safe to return the convalescent patient to the unheated house after he has had the luxury of a fire.

The treatment of roup is, in the main, very unsatisfactory, although, if begun soon enough it may save a valuable specimen. Keep the nostrils, eyes and throat as clean as possible. Get a bottle of listerine at any drug store, and put a tablespoonful into a glass of warm water. Inject into the nostrils, swab the throat and wash the head and eyes with it two or three times a day for the first four or five days. Feed with soft cooked food and milk.

If this treatment makes no improvement in the patient, kill him and burn his carcass. This is the kindest and best advice that can be given, for, although he may recover after weeks of dosing and pampering, he will still be a weak bird and the slightest exposure will start a discharge from the nostrils, which may contain the germs of roup and be sufficient to cause the disease in the flock to which he belongs.

A Bantam that has once had a genuine severe attack of roup is never fit to breed from, as his offspring will be sickly, puny chicks nine times out of ten. If you are unwilling to take this advice, as you probably will be until you have tried to cure roup yourself, the next best thing to do is to continue to keep the head and nostrils as clean as possible. Stop the aconite and give one grain of sulphate of quinine three times a day, and all the milk and whisky you can pour down, every three or four hours. By this time your pet will not eat and his strength must be kept up by forcing the whisky and milk. Should your efforts prove successful and the bird begins to mend, leave off the whisky and quinine very gradually and put enough tincture of chloride of iron into the drinking water to give a decided brown color; feed good cooked food and a little meat once a day.

CANKER OR DIPHTHERITIC ROUP.

This is a frequent accompaniment of ordinary roup, and is probably a different manifestation of the same disease. It is highly contagious to other fowl and possibly to man. Cases are reported where children have probably contracted diphtheria from fowls sick with canker, and also where poultry that have access to discharges from diphtheria patients have sickness with canker. The one distinguishing symptom of canker is the appearance in the mouth or throat of a white or yellowish white cheesy membrane. This may appear during the course of ordinary roup, or may come on suddenly in an apparently healthy fowl. At the first onset one or more white spots, about the size of a pin head, may be seen either on the roof of the mouth or under the tongue, or, quite often around the opening to the windpipe. These spots grow very rapidly until, oftentimes, the whole mouth is filled with a membrane that is usually glistening white, sometimes yellowish. When torn off it leaves a bleeding surface beneath. It is of very offensive odor. If this membrane extends into the windpipe the patient will soon die of suffocation. This is a disease that cannot be mistaken, as the appearance of the membrane is very characteristic.

The remarks on the cause and prevention of roup apply especially to canker and need not be repeated. The general treatment is also the same, but the local treatment is different. Instead of washing out nostrils and mouth attempts must be made to remove the membrane. This is often done by scraping with a piece of pine wood whittled to a convenient shape. After removing all that can be removed, without excessive bleeding, the parts should be powdered over with alum. A better way is to apply peroxide of hydrogen in full strength directly to the membrane, which will soon be eaten away with much less bleeding than in the other proceeding. After using the peroxide a few minutes, apply tincture of the chloride of iron in full strength. The mouth can be pretty well cleaned by either method, but the membrane soon returns and the process must be repeated often. When the membrane is in the windpipe it has to be left to nature, and almost always proves fatal.

CHOLERA.

At the present day this is an extremely rare disease in the United States. It is the most contagious of the diseases of poultry, generally killing the whole flock when it once gets a foothold. It is always caused by contact with a previous case, never originating in a yard without such contact or exposure.

The symptoms are excessive diarrhoea, first of a black substance as thick as tar, later by a thin, watery fluid which smells putrid. There is very rapid emaciation and prostration, death frequently occurring within thirty-six hours after the commencement of the disease. There is no treatment; kill and cremate.

DIARRHOEA

This is quite frequent, and is sometimes mistaken for cholera, but cholera is so very rapid that this mistake ought not to be made. Diarrhoea is usually caused by improper food, impure water, by sudden changes in temperature or exposure to cold and wet. Individual mild cases require no

treatment, as they will soon recover. In severe cases, remove the patient to a coop, keep without food for twenty-four hours, keep lime water before it instead of clear water. After twenty-four hours give a little bread, soaked in boiled milk. Let this be the only food until diarrhoea ceases. When there are a number of cases in the flock, be sure there is something wrong in food or drink. Search carefully for this cause and remove it.

CROP BOUND.

This is quite common in Bantams, and if not properly treated is very apt to prove fatal. The first symptom is a constant effort to swallow. The neck is stretched out, the mouth opened, and the hen acts the way you often see a little chick act when trying to get down a worm one size larger than his gullet.

The patient acts dumpish and stands in a peculiar position with the breastbone pitched forward and down. He is hungry and will keep eating until his crop is filled full and as hard as a stone. If you suspect that you have a case of crop bound place the subject where he cannot eat for twenty-four hours and then feel his crop; if it is hard, or harder than when he was shut up, your suspicions are confirmed.

This trouble is caused by a plugging up of the outlet of the crop with some particle of food, such as a long, ribbon-like piece of hay or grass. It may be caused by overeating, as when fowls get access to the grain bin and then drink a lot of water. The cause in this case is, probably, not so much obstruction of the outlet as it is a paralysis of the muscles of the crop from overdistension. This is rather an unusual form of crop bound and is merely mentioned to point this moral; when you know your Bantams have enormously overeaten, deprive them of water until their crops are, at least, half empty. There is no way to prevent the other or obstructive form.

The treatment is the same in either case; empty the crop. This can sometimes be done by pouring castor oil down the throat and working the mass in the crop around with the fingers. Try this about three times, two or three hours apart. If by that time the mass is not softened it is time to resort to surgery. Remove the feathers from a space the size of a silver dollar directly over the crop. With a clean, sharp knife make a cut one and one-half inches long through the skin; pull the wound along about half an inch and with a second cut go directly through into the crop. With a spoon handle scoop out the contents thoroughly. Either see or feel the outlet of the crop, so as to remove any obstruction there may be there. Wash the inside of the crop and the wound with warm water, to which a little salt has been added. With a needleful of white silk sew up the crop and then the skin.

Give no food or drink for thirty-six hours; then give a little bread soaked in milk. Feed carefully for a week; by that time the little fellow will be all right, that is, supposing the relief to have been given soon enough. For, if the mass in the crop has fermented badly, as it will in three or four days, it will have excited so much inflammation that the operation does no good. Do not delay in a case of crop bound, as twenty-four hours frequently make the difference between saving and losing a valuable bird.

LEG WEAKNESS.

This is most common in growing chickens and is shown by inability to stand up. The chicken appears hungry, and all right in every way, except that it tries to get around on its hock joints instead of its feet. This occurs either while the first feathers or the second are growing. It is due to defective nutrition and is analogous to what we frequently term in children as growing too fast for their strength. The remedy is to change the diet, giving more meat and cut bone, something to make more muscle. Take care that the other chicks do not prevent the weak one from getting any food at all. With a little care these cases recover in a few days.

In the full grown Bantam a similar condition is often seen, although not so often as in the heavy breeds, and is more apt to be due to rheumatism or cramp, the result of dampness or exposure. The remedy in these cases is to place the patient in a dry coop and feed well, at the same time rubbing the legs well with any good liniment.

SCALY LEGS

This is a most disgusting affection and its presence in a flock is a sure sign of laziness or indifference on the part of the owner. It is caused by a parasite, and is, therefore, a contagious disease. When it first appears the shanks and toes become covered with a dry scaly substance which increases quite fast until it forms crusts so thick as to obscure entirely the original shape and color of the legs. It is most common among the feathered legged varieties, and spreads much faster in damp, filthy quarters than in clean, dry ones.

The treatment is very simple, but is also very effective. Apply thoroughly, with the fingers, some carbolized vaseline to every part of the shanks and toes. Repeat every two days until the legs are clean. Each time it is found that considerable scale may be rubbed off with the fingers, and it is advisable to remove all that will come off without causing bleeding. In mild cases three applications is enough to effect a cure. In severe ones it may take six or seven, and, in such cases, it is well to repeat twice a month for three or four months after the case is apparently cured, as it otherwise is very liable to return.

LICE.

If you have had no experience with poultry you will probably smile when you see lice classed among the diseases, but after one or two broods have succumbed to their ravages, and the grown fowls all look as if they were in the last stages of consumption, you will admit that the little vermin are worthy of the first place in the list of diseases.

There are several varieties of lice which infest the hen house. There is the common white or gray louse, which is the largest and sticks to the fowl night and day. The same variety is found on young chicks and is commonly called the head louse because oftenest found on the head and fastened to the skin like a leach. Then there is the red louse, or red mite, which works only at night. During the day he will be found under or on the roosting pole, or on the sides of the house. He is bright red, round and rather smaller than the head of a pin. Frequently these mites will congregate on a part of the wall so thick that one would think the wall was covered with fresh blood.

There is also a brown louse, larger than the red and not so large as the white. The habits of this are similar to both the others, that is to say, many will leave the fowl in the day time and be found in the house, but some of the more greedy will keep at work day and night. This is the kind that bothers the sitting hen the most. Sometimes she is compelled to leave her eggs, and, in such instances, one looking into the nest will see no eggs there, as they will be completely covered with a mass of dirty brown lice.

The symptoms produced by lice are unmistakable, where one has once become acquainted with them. In a fowl there is ruffled plumage, white comb, great uneasiness and emaciation. In chicks there is a weakness and drooping, sometimes diarrhoea and a peculiar, characteristic look about the head, as if the beak had been pulled on and the head elon-

gated. The proof that the symptoms are caused by lice is to see the enemy.

In this connection a very good answer appeared in the notes and queries of a recent poultry paper. The question was like this: "What is the matter with my chickens, they have such and such symptoms?" Answer. "Look for lice, and if you find them, remove by doing thus and so. If you do not find any, do just the same, for they are there, only you do not know how to look for them."

In looking for lice on fowl, look close to the skin around the vent and under wings; on chicks, examine head and under wings; in the house, look on underside of roost and into all the cracks and crevices

The prevention and treatment are identical. Keep dropping-board clean in hot weather; sprinkle slaked lime over it occasionally. Have the roosts and dropping-board arranged so that they can easily be removed. Take them out in the yard twice a month, in summer, and paint them all over with kerosene at the same time paint walls and cracks near where roosts belong. That same night go into the house and sprinkle a little good insect powder over the back of each hen. Clean out the nest boxes and paint inside and out with kerosene. Refill with clean nesting material. Never set a hen without dusting both her and the nest thoroughly with the same powder, and repeat at least three times while she is sitting. When the chicks hatch dust once a week, for the first two months of their lives.

GAPES

This is an affection seen only in young chicks from the third week to about the third month. It is, fortunately, not common in moderate climates, although said to be quite prevalent in the south.

Gapes is caused by the presence in the windpipe of one or more thread-like worms. These little worms attach themselves to the lining membrane of the windpipe and cause it to swell so that it fills the whole caliber of the pipe and the chick dies from suffocation. The principal symptom is gaping. The chick stretches his neck and opens his mouth to its fullest extent. He does this repeatedly and soon refuses to eat, becomes dumpish, and, if not relieved, dies. The only preventive is absolute cleanliness about the coops and yards.

The treatment of gapes is not very satisfactory. It consists in removing the worms from the windpipe. This can be accomplished by means of an instrument known as the gape worm extractor. The operation requires some skill and more patience. When a large number have to be treated the treatment is wholesale, so to speak, and the usual method is to smoke the worms out. The chicks are shut in a tight box, which is then filled with the fumes of burning sulphur or carbolic acid, or with finely powdered slacked lime. The trouble with this method is that the worms will stand about as much as the chicks will, and you will be very lucky if you can stop at just the right moment, that is, when the worms are killed and before the chicks are. Chickens that have had gapes are feeble and debilitated for a long time, and perhaps you will be more lucky, on the whole, if your smoke kills both chicks and worms.

Better direct your energies to stopping the spread of gapes than to doctoring those already affected. Take all the sick and place them in a clean, dry coop, with sand and air slaked lime on the floor. Take the rest of the brood and all the chicks that have had access to the same yard, put them into quarters by themselves and watch very sharply, so as to remove each one to the hospital coop as soon as it shows a symptom. Be sure that any chicks that have not been exposed to danger are kept away from the infected yard, from the quarantined chicks, and, of course, from the sick ones, until the disease is thoroughly stamped out.

The infected coops and yards must be disinfected. A good way to do this is as follows: Burn all old coops that are not of much value, mix a hogshead of corrosive sublimate of strength 1 to 2,000; heat to boiling point enough of this solution to saturate every part of the coops. Sprinkle the rest of the solution over the ground. When the coops are dry give a good coat of whitewash. Sprinkle air-slacked lime over the ground until no earth can be seen. Leave alone for two weeks and then spade and sow down to grass. Put no chicks into this yard for two years. Fowl may be kept in it after the grass is grown, if necessary, but no chicks.

PIP

This is a disease of young chickens and is practically a cold. It occurs oftenest in chicks whose parents have had roup, or have been inbred too much. It is sometimes caused by damp and filthy coops.

Treatment: Give dry, clean quarters, and wash mouth and nostrils with a weak solution of chlorate of potash.

CHICKEN-POX.

This is a highly contagious disease which affects both old and young. It is rather rare. It is characterized by black, hard warts or growths on the head and face.

The only treatment is to quarantine and keep the warts greased well with carbolized vaseline. Fowls will generally recover and be as good as ever, while chicks almost always succumb within a week or two after they are taken.

GOING LIGHT

This is not a very definite term, and the condition to which it is applied is also called consumption, scrofula, congestion of the liver and inflammation. It occurs occasionally in flocks that have the best of care, so it seems there is no sure way to prevent it.

It is undoubtedly a disease of digestive organs, possibly the liver. Autopsies often show a liver rather too large, but no other abnormal condition visible to the naked eye. The symptoms are great emaciation, extreme palor of face and comb, ruffling of feathers and general dumpishness. During the first of it the appetite is fairly good, but later disappears entirely.

When the disease attacks a chicken that is getting its second feathers, as it often does, it is, as a rule, fatal. To be of any avail treatment must be begun very early. Give sulphate of strychnine, one-two-hundredth grain, three times a day, and color the drinking water with tincture of chloride of iron. Feed meat, green food and some cooked food, as bread or mash.

When the patient is a grown fowl the treatment is somewhat different. Shut in a coop with clean sand on the floor, give calomel, one-tenth grain, every two hours for five times, and no food of any kind, but plenty of water. The next morning, after these five doses, the droppings should be found in the sand, abundant and rather loose; if they are not, give a level teaspoonful of Epsom salts. After the bird has been well physicked in this way begin to feed soft food rather sparingly until your patient seems really hungry. Give the strychnine and iron, as in the previous case. As soon as the appetite returns put her back in the run where she can get more exercise and variety of food. Watch her carefully and if she grows worse again repeat the former treatment of calomel. It is often necessary to do this three or four times before thorough recovery takes place.

Now in conclusion, just a word. Remember that you will be well repaid for all the time and pains which you care to spend in giving your Bantams all proper care to keep them in good health

HOUSING AND CARE.

Suitable Bantam Houses—Foods and Feeding—Requirements in Breeding—Care and Management Modern Methods—Nests and Hatching.

THE proper housing of Bantams is the first and most important point for consideration. Almost any place will do for them, provided it is reasonably warm in cold weather, and free from dampness at all times. These little fowls have the constitution to stand very cold weather, but dampness is their almost certain destroyer. From the time Bantams are hatched till the end of their natural life they should be protected from wet and damp. If this is done and they are properly fed, they will enjoy perfect health and repay you for all the attention they have received.

Young Bantams, when hatched, should be kept within doors on a dry board floor with the mother hen for about forty-eight hours, then removed into dry quarters outside and housed in a properly constructed coop with board floor that should be strewn with hay seed or chaff, or hay cut quite small. For my own use I have constructed a coop after the style of one made by Spratt's Patent. This is not all important, for any well constructed coop will do for their comfort, if warm and dry. We advocate very strongly the use of coops with board floors, at the same time, many advocate placing them in A coops right on the ground. Having used both, we cast our vote in favor of the coop with board floor well covered with dry litter, believing a greater number of just as healthy chicks will be raised in this way in all kinds of weather, and in a wet season, like the summers of 1897 and 1902, the per cent is largely in favor of the dry floors.

For adult Bantams we also advocate houses with board floors, and we prefer these houses to be set at least ten inches from the ground, and so constructed that no vermin of any kind can make their home beneath the house. The illustration of our favorite style of coop for adult Bantams (See Fig. 1) will indicate our notion as to same. We also copy one from Spratt's illustrations, having added some of our own ideas to it. From our illustrations many forms of Bantam houses can be constructed; no matter how rude or how cheap in form, just so they are dry and furnish protection from the very cold weather. Do not think for a moment that we would intimate that Bantams should be kept in warm or heated quarters during cold weather. They are quite hardy and withstand cold weather wonderfully well, but they should have comfortable houses to thrive and do their best.

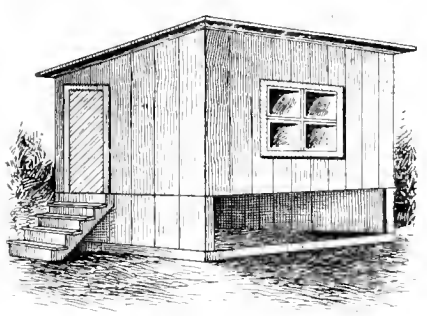


FIG. 1—POULTRY HOUSE WITH RUN UNDERNEATH

For perches nothing is better than oval strips of wood, two and one-half to three inches wide, on the flat side. Some say smaller perches are best. Try both and see which your fowls will prefer. Nest boxes and other furnishings you can select, as best suit your fancy. We use small pine boxes and find them very handy for removing with a broody hen to some quiet corner where she can bring out her brood in comfort.

Many of the finest exhibition Bantams of England are bred in very contracted quarters. We have seen a pen of five Bantams housed and yarded in a space less than seven feet square for a period of four months, and they produced a fine lot of healthy chicks, many of which found their way to the show pens and won their share of prizes. Quite a number of the New York prize winners are bred in very small city lot, where all green food and grit of all kinds must be furnished them. The secret of success in these cases is the care bestowed upon the fowls. The most perfect sanitary conditions must be observed, and cleanliness must be the absolute rule of the hour. To occasionally clean up will not do. If kept in these confined, small quarters, they must be kept as thoroughly clean as your own house, for in this way only can they be successfuly raised in confined quarters.

We breed our finest specimens in a small back yard, and use for housing a small wooden packing box, as shown in Fig. 2. Their run is about eight feet square, and they are turned out on the grass plot each day for a run. The two hens in one of these runs laid over one hundred and fifty eggs in four months, producing a number of very fine chicks, all of which were kept till eight weeks old, in a small door yard. After this age we sent them to a farm to shift for themselves.

Bantams should be sheltered from sun, wind, rain and snow by day, and from drafts by night. Shade of some kind should be provided for all Bantams intended for exhibition, for their plumage is soon injured by the hot rays of the sun. White turns yellow and black turns brown when exposed for days to the hot sunlight. We have seen the careful breeder spread sheets of canvas for shade when deprived of natural shade, for his fowls. These little pointers show what care the expert bestows upon his prospective winners.

When making use of houses like Nos. 1 and 2, the open run beneath makes shelter from rain and sun during the summer months. When the cold days of winter are near at hand it is best to pack this open space full of leaves or straw and bank the earth about the outside to keep the cold from under the floor. Bantam houses may be built the same as houses are built for other fowls. It is not necessary to

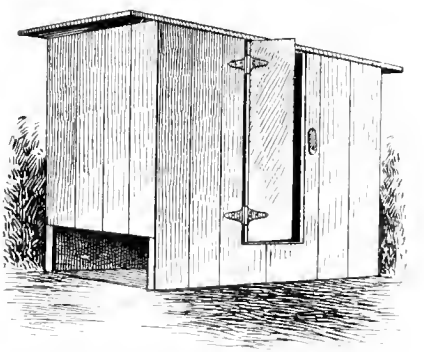


FIG. 2—MADE OUT OF A DRY GOODS BOX

have them so large, but too much cannot be said in favor of dry quarters for Bantams. Many of the troubles of poultrymen may be traced to damp quarters. Ventilation will do much to remedy this, but drainage must be good and the water must be directed away from the house. A little forethought in this particular will save much worry. We have had them sleep at night in a store box fixed for their convenience in the corner of the woodshed. Have left a late brood out all winter in an old style brooder for their home; all the inside save the floor was taken out of the brooder and the mother hen and the brood lived there all winter. The box was set against the south side of the fence near the kitchen door and the whole lot ran out every day. When the snow came it was swept away so the ground could dry in the sun.

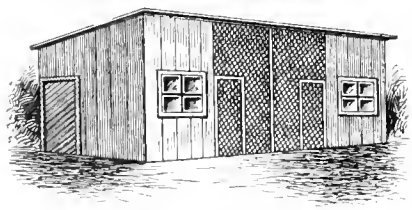


FIG. 3—POULTRY HOUSE WITH COVERED RUN.

The only demand for Bantam houses is comfort for the little fowls and conveniences for those who care for them. They are not, as a usual thing, delicate or tender, they can live and do splendid in any quarters that are suitable for a Leghorn; they do not at any time need heated quarters; in fact they do better if not pampered and favored with too much care. Some of the finer bred Game and Rose Comb Bantams must have special care in very cold weather, and, as before stated, all must be protected from the damp. Houses for Bantams must be built on a dry protected spot that has good drainage if success with them is hoped for.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

Bantams must be well fed, properly fed and not overfed nor underfed. Do not starve your breeding stock, but keep them in good condition and feed them on the proper amount of egg-forming food. Always give them the best, for they eat so little that what they do eat should be fine in quality. If fed morning and evening during the breeding season it is quite enough, providing attention is paid to quality and the proper quantity.

If confined in runs, plenty of green food and grit must be given them. When so confined, a meal at noon adds much to their comfort and condition. For green food, cut grass, clover, apples, beets, turnips, and the tops of almost any vegetable are good for them. This green food should be given at noon.

The best grain for Bantams is wheat, rice, oatmeal and some broken corn. When young it is best to cook the food for them. Boiled rice, mixed with corn bread, wheat bread, or a mixture of ground oats, corn and middlings made into a cake and baked is very good. Feed the chicks quite often, on small amounts each time. In this way they will not be forced to overgrowth. After weaning time a small feed of wheat twice a day is quite enough for them if they have their liberty, where they can find seeds and bugs for themselves.

All Bantams should have some kind of animal food. If confined feed them a limited amount of ground green bone with some meat in it, not too much and cut very fine. Cooked meat of all kinds is good for them and there is nothing better than cooked fish. There are quite a number of prepared animal foods, many of them good. The best of them are Crissel and Liverine. A mixture of Liverine, oatmeal and middlings cooked or scalded and fed warm and crumbling is a good occasional food. Crissel is excellent for laying hens. It can be fed in the same manner and is a fine egg-producing food. Grit of some kind, ground shell, bone and charcoal should always be provided in liberal quantities. They are great promoters of good health. After the breeding season, cut down the food ration of your old birds, only feed them as you do the young, growing stock; but when the cooler weather comes treat them as you do yourself, to a little larger allowance. One of the most important factors of success is plenty of pure, fresh water. This should be kept in some good style of fountain, protected from the sun in hot weather. These fountains should be kept as clean as your own cups and saucers, and fresh water should be provided at least once, and when very warm, not less than twice a day. The hen must quench her thrist and also consume enough water to furnish a large per cent of water in the eggs she lays. The better the water supply and the food the better she lays. Here are a few hints on feeding young chicks: If you want bone, like in the Game Bantam, feed bone-forming food; if a short leg and plenty of feather, like the Cochin Bantams, feed rice and wheat. Always feed them the kind of food that has the tendency to advance the features most desired.

SIZE AND WEIGHT.

We advocate that all Bantams shall weigh about one-fifth as much as the standard fowls they miniature; if less, so much the better. The smaller the better, providing they possess all the variety characteristics. We have seen them too small for Bantams. This is quite as bad as too large. The happy medium of size combined with the perfect form is most to be desired.

MATING.

From three to five hens are quite enough for one male. Grade this according to his vigor and success in filling the eggs. Sebrights and Japanese do best in trios, and most of the other males do better with two or three females. Mate them early so they may become acquainted before the breeding season, otherwise their habit of quarreling when strange to one another may give you many infertile eggs. Do not hesitate to inbred good, healthy stock, but do not make it a rule to mate brother and sister together. This is the most unlikely mating one can have, father with daughter, or son with mother will bring improvement; also, cousins in line or to ancestors, but do not look for marked improvement from brother and sister, it does not work well that way.

BEST TIME FOR HATCHING.

Bantams should be about six months old for males, and a little less for females before they are fully ready to show under the most favorable circumstances. We have won in strong competition with Bantam males five months old, but considered the specimen rather immature. By taking this as a guide you can hatch any time from April till August, and later if prepared to care for late chicks. Late hatched Bantams do well if properly housed; if not, they drop by the wayside and die.

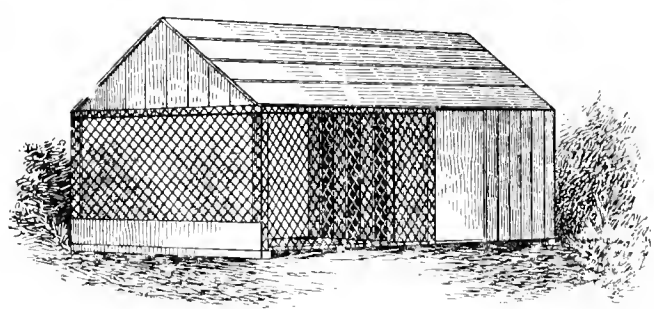


FIG. 4—HOUSE 24X36 INCHES. COVERED RUN FOR CHICKS; SEPARATE APARTMENT FOR HEN; DROP DOOR IN FRONT; APARTMENT FOR HEN 12X24.

CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF BANTAMS.

The following circular came to hand with no name signed to it, but we consider it worthy of a place in our book:

"May and June are the best months to hatch Bantams. April, July and August are not bad, and September is all right if you have an extra nice place to keep the chicks in during winter.

You can set the eggs under Bantams or large hens. A

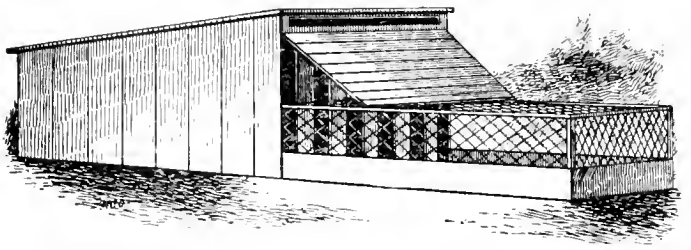


FIG. 5—HOUSE WITH MOVABLE RUN AND DROP LID. VENTILATOR ABOVE DROP.

large hen that will sit on her own eggs without breaking them can do the same with Bantam eggs, as they do not break any easier than ordinary eggs. The only objection to using large hens as mothers is that they are apt to kill a great many chicks by stepping on them.

"In the care of the chicks the most important thing is to keep them absolutely free from lice. Remember the lice on Bantams are the same size as those that infest ordinary chickens, therefore the Bantams will succumb sooner than the ordinary chicks. I use the utmost precaution against lice, but if I find a brood is not doing well I examine them carefully for lice. If I find any I dust them with insect powder; if I do not find any I dust them just the same. It takes sharp eyes to discover lice, but with experience you will be able to tell when your chicks are lousy by their general appearance.

FOOD AND WATER.

"Keep clean water before your chicks all the time, also plenty of grit, and for the first week or two finely broken egg shells, and after that oyster shells. Give all food dry. Bread crumbs make an excellent food for the first two weeks. Oats, wheat and corn are my principal standbys.

"Oats I use in the form of oatmeal. This is just the right size for the first few days. Then I give cracked wheat, and as soon as they will eat it, finely cracked corn. By the end of the third week they can usually eat whole wheat. I depend upon these three grains all through the growth of the chick, simply using the different forms to accommodate the size of the chick.

"A newly hatched Bantam will swallow only a very small particle. Give finely chopped, cooked meat twice a week. See that they have an abundance of green food all the time, and the more bugs and worms the better. Vary your diet as much as possible by using waste from the table, but be sure to feed everything dry. Wet or even moist food comes next to lice on the list of chicken destroyers. Feed five or six times a day at regular intervals for the first week or two, after that gradually lessen the number of feeds until by the time they are fully feathered two or three times a day will be found quite sufficient.

"There is a common idea that Bantam chicks must be starved to keep them small. If you wish even a moderate amount of success in raising them give up this idea at once. Until they are fully feathered feed them just as if you expected to make roasters of them. After they are feathered you may let up a little, but keep them growing, and when you pick one up it should feel plump and not as if its breast-bone would cut through the skin.

"By this method you will undoubtedly get some overgrown birds, while by starving them you will get a great many worthless and mismarked ones, and the best you will get will not be equal to the best obtained in the other way, in either plumage, shape or vigor. Keep your Bantams small by selecting the smallest to breed from, and keep them healthy by good care and enough to eat. Nothing has done more to hurt the popularity of the Bantam than this idea that it must be starved to keep it down to standard size.

"Keep your chickens free from lice, give them clean, dry quarters, dry food in abundance, and you have the three main props in raising Bantams."

FEEDING DRY GRAIN FOOD

The experience of five years past has fully satisfied the writer that Bantam chicks will do the best on a dry grain ration; have used nothing but prepared chick food for four seasons, and with this a little clean sweet meat scraps of the very best quality. As we rear all our Bantams with hens we trust to them to pick out for themselves all the larger pieces of both grain and meat. This dry grain ration prevents all manner of bowel trouble, and being their natural food it must suit them best. Those who can not buy the prepared chick food for their Bantam chicks can have a coffee mill through which they can grind some cracked corn, wheat, hulled oats, beans and peas. To this add some very small chick grit and a little meat scraps and charcoal and you have a nice healthy food for them.

Again, we are not in a hurry to force water on the young Bantam chick; it must be old enough and strong enough to look about for water and find it before it has a drink. No water is pushed up against it to run into. It is placed at a safe distance so when they begin to run about

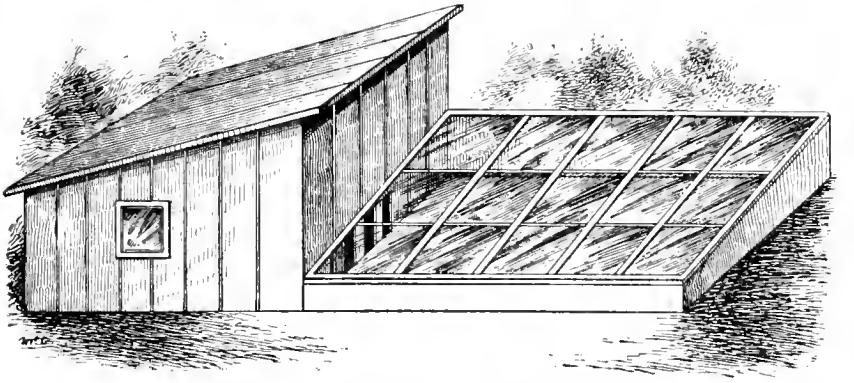


FIG. 6—HOUSE FOR WINTER AND EARLY SPRING, 5X6 FEET. RUNS SAME SIZE

they can have it at their pleasure. While we do not advocate the no water system (have grown some beautiful Bantams that never had water till over a week old), it is our practice to have two or even three broods with hens in coops or small low down houses that are four or five feet square. All live together in these houses. When old enough hens and chicks have their freedom. Usually these hens drop off one at a time till finally the whole lot follow the one hen. By this method some one of the hens will usually stay with the chicks for eight or nine weeks. We much prefer Cochin Bantams for mothers for all Bantams.

MODERN METHODS

The Bantam Fancier of To-day an Expert

No branch of the poultry interest has gone forward so fast as has the breeding of Bantams. From one end of the globe to the other they are kept and cared for by the most expert in producing the very highest type of perfection in fowls. In the show catalogues of to-day we see among the names on the list of Bantam classes, those of millionaires, professional men, men of leisure and culture; and the specimens shown are far in advance of any former efforts in this line. Popularity has come to these little beauties, and in

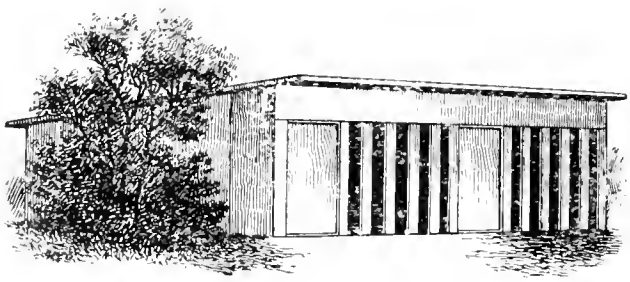


FIG. 7—DOUBLE OPEN COOP 6x8, MAKING TWO APARTMENTS 4x6 FEET FOR 100 CHICKS

many instances marvelous values are placed upon and paid for the best.

There is an inclination to huckster a little in this line, and entirely too many inferior specimens are being scattered all over the country at low prices. Not cheap prices, for many of them are high at any price. These go into the hands of those not well informed, and it spoils them for something better. It is to be hoped that the united efforts of fanciers all over the country will stamp out entirely the selling of poor quality Bantams at any price, and thus elevate them so that those who love the fancy may feel secure that they have only good quality.

English fanicers have given much attention to the breeding of Bantams, and that all may have the benefit of their experience, we copy from "The Feathered World" some hints by Mr. Proud, an expert in this line. On hatching he writes.

"Don't attempt to hatch and rear Bantam chicks by artificial means, for you cannot do it with any degree of success. Incubators and foster mothers are all right for the larger breeds of fowls. I don't say that you cannot hatch Bantam eggs by incubators, as with a good reliable machine and careful attention daily you can obtain very fair results, but the Bantam chick hatched by artificial incubation will be found a very fragile; puny little mite that will be quite an impossibility to rear, and during his brief sojourn in this world will be a misery to both himself and an eyesore to those around him.

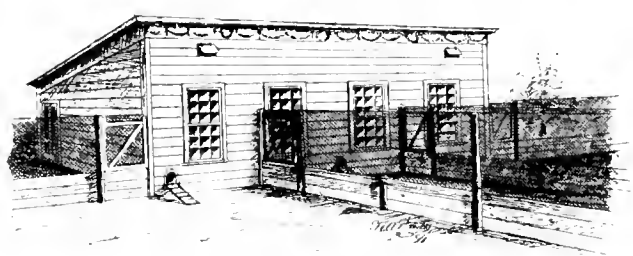
In the first place, I will select a suitable broody hen, which is one of the most important features in rearing Bantams. It is useless putting a big hen of five or seven pounds weight on Bantam eggs, for even should she be fortunate enough not to smash the lot during the period of incubation, she would in all probability crush the life out of the whole brood within a week of hatching.

It was only the other day I received a letter from a young fancier, written in jubilant spirits, on having hatched twelve lovely chicks; but alas! within three days another letter reached me informing me of the demise of nine out of the twelve, and doubtless by the time this appears the other three will have ended their brief career by being trampled to death by a big hen. You might as well put Bantam eggs under a turkey and hope for a good result. Years ago I was greatly troubled over sitting hens breaking eggs and trampling chicks to death, so I determined to remedy the grievance by rearing suitable hens for hatching Bantam eggs.

What I did was to purchase three or four Buff Pekin hens, which cost me 5s each, and these I matched to a Black Faced White Silky cock, and from this pen I hatched some twenty or thirty pullets, which for sitters and mothers are worth their weight in gold. Sit, why they'd sit in the middle of the road on a few small stones; or, if you are hard up for room, you can put them on the top shelf in the scullery or on the mantlepiece, and they will sit from three weeks to three months if required. They will sit anywhere, and, as a rule, will rear two or three broods of chicks each year, for I have never known them to lay more than a dozen eggs before becoming broody, and are so quiet and reliable that no Bantam fancier should be without them. Having secured a suitable hen, which should not weigh more than three pounds at most, before putting her on the nest give her a good sprinkling with insect powder, and see that she is perfectly healthy, and, if possible, not scaly-legged. This latter point is of great importance, especially where smooth, clean-legged chicks are a necessity, as in Game Bantams. I fancy I hear many of my readers say: "But what effect can a scaly-legged broody hen have on the chicks she rears?" My answer is, a very marked effect; and if you have never had scaly-legged chicks before you can depend upon having them the first brood you rear under a scaly-legged hen. This is a wrinkle, and you would do well to bear it in mind.

Now as regards nests. I very rarely use anything except the usual orange boxes which can be purchased from any of the green grocers for 2d or 3d. I lay these down on their sides and nail a strip of wood about four inches deep along the front. You will then have three good roomy nests. The next thing to do is to get plenty of nice soft hay and make a nest in the shape of a large basin, i. e., hollow in the middle and nicely rounded at the sides, to prevent the eggs from rolling out when the hen leaves the nest to partake of food.

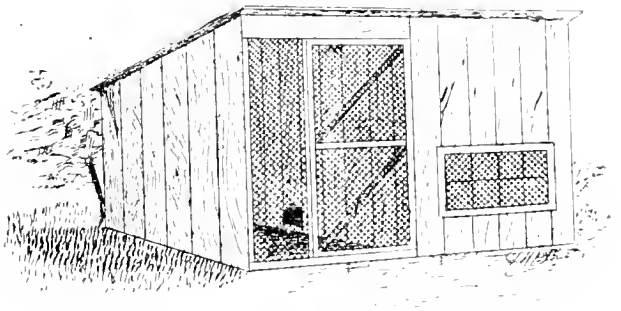
Having put the hen on the nest, give her a dummy egg or two until she is properly settled down, which should not take more than a few hours. If at the end of that time she does not attempt to fly off when you place your hand under



HOUSE WITH FOUR BREEDING PENS.

her, it will be quite safe to put the proper eggs under, and this is best done at night time. When cold winds and frosty nights are prevalent, it is unwise to give a hen her full complement of eggs; better two less than one too many, for if she has too many it will make her uneasy and in all probability she will spoil several eggs in her endeavors to get them all properly under. At the end of four days after setting hens, examine the eggs by holding them before a candle. This must be done at night time; the clear eggs can then be taken away, which are easily distinguished from the fertile ones, the latter showing cloudy, and the veins of the germs will be quite distinct. By taking out the unfertile ones, in addition to making room for the fer-

tile ones, it gives them a much better chance of keeping the proper temperature. The front of the nest should be covered either by a piece of board or sack, and each night carefully remove each hen to feed and keep her off for ten to fifteen minutes. The best food for the sitting hen is maize, and let them have plenty of water, and a good supply of cinder ashes for the hen to dust in. Should the nest become fouled, or any of the eggs broken, take out the nest, replace with fresh hay, and wash the eggs with lukewarm water. If the nest is properly made, nice and soft, and the hen allowed off sufficient time each night until the wants of nature have been attended to, and providing she is a suitable hen, as I have already described, this trouble will very rarely occur."



BANTAM HOUSE WITH SCRATCHING PEN. FRONT VIEW.

Having tried the White Silky and its crosses for hatching Bantams, we are fully satisfied that the best mothers for Bantams of all kinds are the Buff Cochin Bantam hens. One year-old Buff Cochin Bantam hens, or those that are older, make by far better mothers and sitters than any others. I have used all kinds of Cochin Bantams, both kinds of Brahma Bantams, Silkies and their crosses, and am fully convinced that none excels a Buff Cochin Bantam hen.

THE MOTHER HEN

Returning to the sitting hen, Mr. Proud writes: "On the eighteenth day of incubation, when she comes off the nest for her usual feed, dust her again with insect powder, and do not disturb her again until the next night, when the chicks ought to have put in an appearance. Let hen and chicks remain quiet until the next morning, when you can give them their first feed. Before doing so, give the hen a good feed of maize, and water to drink, or she will be liable to eat all the food away from the chicks. Nature has so provided that the chick does not require food for at least sixteen to twenty hours after hatching, whilst in the large breeds twenty-four hours can elapse before giving food. The first feed then should be egg boiled for about five or six minutes, just long enough to cause it to be set; this should be chopped up fine and mixed with equal parts of coarse oatmeal and stale bread crumbs. Continue this feed for the first two days, by which time the brood should be well on their legs. On the third morning give them for the first meal Spratt's chicken or game meal scalded and allowed to stand until nearly cold. The next feed should be given about two hours later, and this should consist of pure oatmeal mixed with sweet milk until crumbly. This should be given at least three times a day, with the addition at noonday of a little lean meat chopped fine, for the first two months. When the chicks are a fortnight old, groats can be given for the last feed at night, and when two months old wheat should be given.

The question has often been asked, how frequently should chicks be fed? To a great extent this depends upon the breed, but for Bantams, every two hours for the first week, and from that time till they are three months old, four times daily will be sufficient. From three to five months, three times a day. A fair allowance of animal matter, such as lean meat chopped fine, granulated meat, or maggots should be given to chicks once daily, especially during February, March and April. This will enable them to withstand the cold winds and damp. Where chicks have not the liberty of a grass run, boiled vegetables mixed with the soft food should be given at the noon feed."

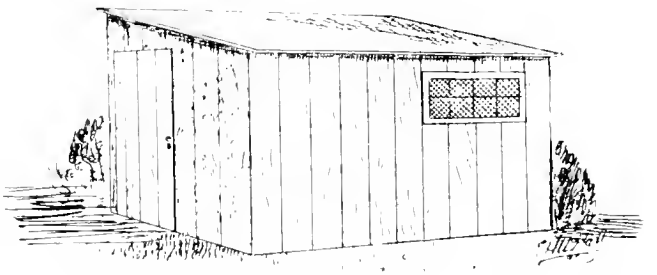
NO WATER METHOD.

In the chapter on feeding dry grain, we made mention of not having been in any hurry about giving the young Bantams water, and in support of this I quote from some writer who is very positive on the water question, and while I am not prepared to go as far or state as strongly as he does, I am fully convinced that many Bantam chicks are killed by having too much water:

"I know of many successful breeders and exhibitors who rear from 200 to 500 chicks every season and the only water they get is what they can obtain from the grass after a shower or heavy dew. For my own part, I don't believe in water for chicks. Since I discontinued the use of water for my chicks I have not had one solitary case of diarrhoea, but let them have access to water, especially in hot weather, then your trouble begins. If you never give chicks water they never require it, and are much healthier without; but once you start giving them water you must continue till the end of the chapter. If your chicks have a grass run and are fed as stated above, they will not require water. Of course, when the bird reaches the age of, say four months, when grain will be necessary for his principal food, then and then only need water be given.

When chicks are old enough to be taken away from the hen, viz., about three months, the cockerels should be separated from the pullets and put on different runs where they cannot get together. By doing this you will find that both sexes will thrive better and settle down more contentedly, and a good plan is to put an old cock along with the cockerels to prevent their fighting and maintain order.

Although chickens do not require water, the hen must not be forgotten, and to meet the necessity I fasten one of the ordinary drinking tins inside the coop about eight inches from the floor. This enables the hen to drink what she requires, and at the same time it is out of reach of the chicks. The tin is easily kept in its place by a couple of wire staples.



BANTAM HOUSE WITH SCRATCHING PEN. REAR VIEW.

During the months of February, March and April I prefer false bottoms to the chicken coops, on account of the damp, cold weather generally experienced at that time of the year, and by having them loose they can be very readily removed for cleaning. When the warm weather sets in it is advisable to take out the bottoms and allow the chicks to sleep on the ground; but where rats and other vermin abound, the bottoms should be kept in all through the year. It is advisable also to have a hinged shutter to the coop

for protection at night, and which also affords a shade from the sun in the daytime. The shutter can be lowered to any desired height by having a chain attached. The coops should be lime washed every five or six weeks; this is very important, if you would have strong, healthy chicks."

No doubt many who follow the above reasoning will have their doubts as to the results of the "no water" for Bantams. We can assure you, however, it is worth the trial. The writer has tried it, and shall continue to experiment with the no water system until satisfied as to whether it is good or bad. So far, as before stated, I have refrained from giving water till the Bantam chick went for and found it outside of and away from its coop. In some instances the chicks have been over a week old before they had water, and I never had better success with them than when under the dry grain food and the no water system till they found it for themselves. Mash food for Bantam chicks is not beneficial to them for several reasons. First of all, it makes them grow too fast and too large; then again, it is loosening and often causes bowel trouble if the weather turns cold or damp.

MORE ABOUT FEEDING.

Fortunately we do not all think alike. In proof of this I give for your consideration all sides of this most important question, and quote from the English fancier, Mr. J. Downer, as follows:

"Having bred and reared Bantams for some years with a fair share of success in breeding, rearing and exhibiting, the following remarks may meet your approval. I hope they may be useful and interesting to your readers.

I prefer incubator hatched chicks to those hatched under large hens, for the reason that every time I feed mine I handle some of them, when the old hen raises the alarm, making them run in all directions, and she is liable to trample on them.

If hatched under a hen, first give the mother a good feed of soft food—Spratt's meal, mixed with sharps or barley meal. This she will very much relish after being fed on hard corn for three weeks, which is most suitable, as they are not so likely to soil the nest.

The chicks will not require any food for the first twenty to twenty-four hours after hatching. By that time have ready some hard boiled eggs, chopped very fine, adding a sprinkling of medium oatmeal. With this feed every two hours, giving very little and fresh each time.

They will not require any drink until the third day, when a little condensed milk and water may be given each time of feeding. (Condensed milk mixed with water is good for all young chicks.) But on no account leave it in the run, as they are always inclined to drink more than is good for them.

When about a week old begin to give the best Scotch oatmeal and chicken groats, gradually leaving off the egg food; that is, if the chicks are strong and healthy and do not droop their wings. Some chicks are as strong at a week old as others at two

A little water may be given to drink at intervals, with milk.

After the chicks are under the hen for the night, scrub the boards on which they are fed and wash the drinking vessels. I prefer small flower pot saucers for that purpose, being easy to clean and nearly always empty at feeding time, so it insures the chicks always having fresh water.

Fill the saucers ready for the morning, in which put one or two tablespoonfuls of coarse oatmeal. By the time you are up in the morning you will find the saucer empty, and your chicks will have enjoyed their cold porridge breakfast.

Feed the mother on dart, buckwheat and small wheat, so, when feeding herself, she will call her chicks, who will try to pick up, and when old enough will eat that kind of grain, a good staple food, with the addition of a little hempseed, which will add sap and gloss to the feathers.

Two or three times a week give grass, watercress or lettuce, cut up fine with a pair of scissors. Bantams, if treated as I have stated, will become very tame, especially if kindly handled, smoothed gently, and given an occasional sponging of the head and face to get them used to the show preparation, so that, when exhibited, they will not turn their backs to the visitors, but will pass their little heads through the pen wires to be stroked or receive tidbits. I may say, from experience, that Bantams, if well looked after, their wants and comforts well studied, will add both pleasure and profit to their owner."

POSSIBLE TO FEED TOO MUCH.

Here we have a sample of the other side of feeding, and from one who claims to know: It is quite possible to feed young Bantams so much as to have them grow out of all proportion. Heavy grain and soft food fed to Game Bantams will spoil their shape and size and make them grow much too heavy a coat of feathers. A limited supply of hard grain food is best for all Bantams that are close feathered, no soft or mash food, and the meat they get should be dry beef scraps. It is also possible to be too close in the feeding of Bantams, and by so doing have them under size and lacking in vigor. This is just as bad as the other. Some cracked corn, hulled wheat, barley and rice is good for them. When at liberty they have a chance to get plenty of bugs and green food, so neither need be given; but when in confinement both must be furnished them.

Cochins that have their full growth, also Rose Combs and Sebrights, may be fed some soft or mash food for the benefit of better or longer feathers at molting time. When your old or breeding Bantams have a free range, but very little food should be given them—just a light feed twice a day to help them along is plenty. When confined in runs their wants must be fully met so they will not become thin or too poor to produce any eggs. Don't get the idea that Bantams need to be starved, for this is not the case; but there is a long distance between stuffing and starving. Grit and green food, plenty of it, must be given to them at all times. They will surely suffer if without it. Chick grit, small shell and a little charcoal broken as small as grains of wheat should always be where they can help themselves. Water they should have at all times.

SMALL BREEDING HOUSES.

Many have for their Bantams small pens or houses no bigger than a dog kennel. A house 3x4 and 2½ feet high inside is often made use of in a yard of six or seven Bantams. These houses may be within a wire enclosed run that is covered on top, and the old fowls, the hen and the small chicks may be within the enclosure and away from all cats, hawks or crows. Let it be remembered at all times that rats, weasels or other vermin of this sort will destroy Bantams, both old and young, if they have the opportunity; so it is always best to guard against such attacks by night at least.

THE GRACEFUL BANTAM.

Eds. Country Gentleman—Although Bantams cannot be included among the economic varieties of poultry, we can scarcely deny them a place in our dealing with the various races, from the fact that they are so largely kept. Not a few of those who go in for the miniature races declare that they are the most profitable of all, in that they produce more in eggs and flesh, relative to the cost of food and main-

tenance, than the larger breeds. I do not doubt that this statement is true, but at the same time neither the eggs nor the birds themselves have any marketable value, and hence it is only true when both are consumed in the household. I do not see, however, why Bantams should not be sold for table purposes. We know that in London and some of the other great centers of population there is considerable demand in the spring for what are called petits poussins, that is, young chicks which weigh only eight or nine ounces, and are served whole. For this purpose Bantams might be used, and would be equally good. Up to the present they have been kept almost entirely for their beauty or exhibition properties, but there is no reason why the other purpose should not be considered.

For beauty the Bantam undoubtedly bears the palm, and no more pleasing section of a show can be found than that embracing the races grouped under this term. It would seem that there is reality in the old statement that "good stuff goes into little bulk," even in animal life. Certain it is that we find a concentration of qualities and a perfection of color in Bantams not often met with in larger birds. A further attraction lies in their sprightliness and activity. They carry themselves in a most pleasing manner, and act toward the larger members of the poultry yard in a way which is very amusing. Perhaps this latter may be designated as impudence or cheek, and such it truly is. At the same time, this very fact is a recommendation.

The first races of the Bantam came to us from the East, as the name indicates. Both Chinese and Japanese, together with other Asiatic nations, have bred them for centuries. Taking the jungle fowl as the original of domestic poultry, a small bird comparatively in itself, there would not be any more trouble in breeding down than in increasing the size. And the tastes of those peoples already mentioned have been in the lines of extremes, either of size, color or of style. Thus it is we have the quaint Japanese and Burmese Bantams, which are but examples of many others. The diminutive fowls introduced into Britain- for this country has been the home of Bantams for many years—gave us the basis for producing most of the many varieties now to be met with, and without them we could scarcely have arrived so speedily at the desired end, for if the larger breeds had to be bred down, it would necessarily take a considerable period of selection. It is this crossing which has given that vigor characteristic of them, and which is so much in their favor.

There are two distinct sections, Bantams and Game Bantams. The latter embrace all those of the Game type; that is, descended from the fighting cocks of former days, while the former embraces all others. At one time Game Bantams were the more numerous and popular, but during recent years, due largely to the skill and perseverance of the late Mr. W. F. Entwisle, the number of Bantams not Game has enormously developed, and they must be given the first place. Pro rata, taking the supporters of each individual variety, Game Bantams have the largest amount of attention, as can be seen at our great exhibitions, such as the Dairy, Birmingham and the Crystal Palace, but in the gross total they are beaten by their compeers.

Taking Bantams first, we are almost overwhelmed by their number. It is not my present intention to deal with them in detail, but simply to indicate what are their chief features.

One of the oldest kinds is the Sebright, which is distinct from all others in that the cock and hen are marked alike. The feathers are laced, by which is meant that each feather is edged with black. There are two colors, Golds and Silvers, and when even in lacing they are very beautiful. Black Rose Comb Bantams are really Black Hamburgs in miniature, but they drop their wings in a way the larger birds do not, thus showing an influence from the purely Bantam ancestry. There are also White Rose Combed Bantams, similar in all respects to the Blacks except in plumage. Pekin Bantams are really small Cochins, and we find in them the same distinctive varieties as in the last named breed. There are two very quaint forms, namely, the Black-Booted and White-Booted, which are characterized by remarkable development of hock, leg and foot feathering, the latter extending several inches beyond the toes. Japanese and Burmese Bantams are remarkable for their peculiarities of carriage and shape.

In Frizzles, the feathers, instead of lying flat against the body, stand out from it, or are reversed. Hence the name. Cuckoo Bantams are small Scotch Grays, and in them the color and markings are usually much better than in the larger race. In addition, we have a considerable number of varieties which are, or should be, small facsimiles of well known fowls. These are Black Spanish, Malay, Indian Game, Polish, Brahma, etc. Some are by no means so perfect as those first named, by reason of the fact that they are of more recent introduction, and there has not been time yet to fix their distinctive characteristics. This will, however, be accomplished ere long. Many of the newer breeds have not yet been represented in miniature, but attempts are being made in this direction. For work of this kind skill, time and determination are required, and it is not every one who is willing to wait a decade of years ere seeing the fruit of his efforts. I believe it took the late Mr. Entwisle nine years before he bred Brahma Bantams to such a quality that he was willing to put them before the public. But given skill and patience, the reward is certain. Prices paid for good specimens are high, and I have known a little Bantam to sell for £50, which worked out at something like £4 per ounce, live weight. The Bantam breeders include many people who will give high figures for a really first-class bird.

With regard to Game Bantams, it is not necessary to say much. We have Black-Reds (which are the most popular of all), Brown-Reds, Piles and Duckwings. These are of the long-legged, reachy type, the same in all respects save size as the ordinary modern show Game. Recently what are called Old-Fashioned Game Bantams have been introduced, which are more nearly allied to the fighting Game. It must be conceded that the former are rather the more stylish.

Bantams are trained thoroughly for the show pen, and go through a course of instruction which prepares them to exhibit themselves in the best manner. When so trained, a bird holds himself in a very pleasing way, and is greatly improved by the process. But that is another story, into which I do not propose to enter.

STEPHEN BEALE, H——, ENGLAND.

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